

Assignment & Rubric

Independent Project – Human Biology

This project will emphasize three vital skills common to all scientists and useful to all working people: independent research, written communication, and oral communication.

The assignment is to select **any disease, condition, or disorder** of the human body and study it in depth. You must use good sources, including information from the Human Genome Project if applicable. You must cite at least four sources (wikipedia may only count as one source; additional resources may include the Mayo Clinic, WebMD, OMIM, and JSTOR articles). You may not use personal or corporate websites as they are not reliable.

Please note I reserve the right to recommend alterations to your topic if I find it overly broad or narrow. For example, “cancer” is exceptionally broad since there are hundreds of kinds, though specific kinds are valid. It is strongly recommended you choose a topic *you are interested in*. If you or a relative have a particular condition you are already knowledgeable about, feel free to choose this topic!

You must include ALL of the following in your research paper, which must be a *maximum* of 4 pages:

Name of condition	Date of discovery if applicable	Discoverer if applicable	Origin of name
Body system(s) affected	Cause & mechanism of affliction	Diagnosis criteria	Available tests if any
Risk/Environmental factors	Population(s) most affected	Available treatments	Average costs of treatments
If genetic: name of gene(s) and chromosome locations		If cause unknown: current research centers and progress	

The paper will be graded according to the rubric provided. In addition, each student will present his or her findings to the class during the last day of lab, including only the vital information, in 3 minutes. Presentations will lose points for going over 3 minutes and be cut off at 4 minutes, so PRACTICE! You may use powerpoint if you so choose, though use is not mandatory.

Alternatively you may also choose to play a 3-minute youtube video of your own construction presenting the information for you. You may NOT use youtube videos created by professional companies (no plagiarism). However since you are not profiting you may use other media such as sound clips and images from other resources, such as your book and wikimedia.

Please ask any questions anytime if you are unclear about any part of the assignment!

Topic	What I am looking for...	Points	Deductions
Presentation	Concisely relaying key info in 3 minutes	8 pts	-3 for running over 3 min
Information	Includes all required information	3 pts	-1 for each excluded info
Paper length	Adheres to page limit	3 pts	-3 for each page over 3
Grammar	Uses good grammar/spelling/syntax	3 pts	-1 for each error
Citations	Uses good sources, uses APA format	3 pts	-5 for only providing weblinks
TOTAL		20	

NOTE: Citations/Cover pages does not count towards 4 page limit, also may include appendix with images

NOTE: Deductions are cumulative and may result in a negative score for a last-minute terrible paper