

Research Paper assignment:

You will be writing a research paper consisting of around 8-10 pages of text, double spaced, font size 12, followed by 1-2 pages of references. The actual length is not what is important, but rather, what is contained within. In other words, don't try to stretch it out by fiddling with fonts and margins.

This paper should be a **research review paper** discussing a topic relevant to behavioral ecology. This will be a scientific paper, and as such, should reference peer-reviewed primary sources, especially to back up facts. **Websites are not good sources.**

By the way, **every sentence in this paper should be a sentence that you wrote.** There is no reason to be quoting other authors. However, you will be using other authors' work to back up your points. You would really only use direct quotes if you were discussing the way in which something was said (and you probably won't be doing that.)

Please refer to our discussion of plagiarism in order to avoid plagiarizing other authors. Everything in this paper should be written by you. You may not and should not use AI for any of the steps in this paper.

Basic Format

INTRODUCTION:

Your paper would begin with an introduction that would start broadly and gradually get more specific. The last sentence of the introduction would usually be your thesis. **The point of your introduction is to give the reader some background for what your paper will be discussing. Basically, you are laying out some basic background points that will lead to your thesis. These points will have citations.**

THESIS:

The last sentence in your introduction is usually your thesis for your paper. Your thesis should reflect the basic structure of your discussion, and make the basic points of your paper. **(For a paper of this size, your thesis should really be just one sentence.)** You will probably have 3 or 4 major points you are making in the body of your paper, and each of these should be laid out in the thesis. **Since your thesis is out of your own head, it shouldn't have any citations. You will cite evidence later, in your body.**

BODY:

You will probably have three main sections to your body, **and these will probably consist of several paragraphs each.** Again, each paragraph should have at least an introductory sentence, several supporting sentences (3 at least), and a conclusion sentence (which helps to transition to the next paragraph.) Remember, don't include anything extraneous. If it does not further your thesis, either leave it out, or adjust your thesis to include it.

CONCLUSION:

The conclusion for your paper should be around 1.5-2 pages. In your conclusion, you will sum up your major points, and restate your thesis. **There probably won't be any citations here. You already cited everything in your body, and now you are just restating your own points.**

References:

At the end of your paper, you will include a list of references. There is no set number of required references. However, as a general guideline, less than 15 is probably too few, and more than 30 is possibly too many.

Websites are generally not good sources. Most of your sources should be peer-reviewed journal articles (primary literature). More recent articles are probably better to use, but if you need to use an older article, please do so.

In-text citations should be in the (Author, Year) format.

References should be formatted according to the APA guidelines (<http://www.library.ubc.ca/pubs/apastyle.html>).

Due dates:

- A **topic** should be submitted by **Sep 26** on **Canvas**. This topic must be approved by the instructor. If it is not approved, keep adjusting it and submitting until you get it approved.
- You will need to submit a thesis by **OCT 24**. This is worth 5% of your final paper grade.
- You will also need to complete the AIM course on canvas. This is worth 5% of your final paper grade as well.
- Completed Research **Paper Due** on **NOV 26**. (should be submitted on <http://www.turnitin.com>)

THIS IS MEANT TO BE A SEMESTER-LONG ASSIGNMENT. PLEASE TREAT IT AS SUCH. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST TWO WEEKS TO WORK ON IT. This assignment counts as much as an exam. It should be obvious from the quality of your work that you have been working on it all semester.