

## Biology11B Marine Biology: Class Projects

### 1. Organism Assignment (50 points):

*This will help familiarize you with some of your favorite marine plants and animals, and is meant to be fun and informative for you. It is worth 50 points*

Choose 4 invertebrates, 4 algae, 4 fish, and 4 marine mammals. For each one:

- 1) Write the common name and at least the genus or the scientific name
- 2) Describe the general characteristics (identification)
- 3) State where it is found (distribution and habitat)
- 4) Describe at least one aspect of the natural history of the organism (for example how it reproduces, where it feeds, how does it live etc. just something interesting about it).

#### IMPORTANT POINTS:

Do NOT copy and paste information from the internet. This is plagiarism, and usually quite easy for your teacher to detect. Use the internet and other sources, but put it into your own words.

Do NOT copy and past the same information from someone else's project. Do your own.

Your grade will be based on the information you and present and the presentation of that information (neatness, organization, style etc.)

### 2. Organism presentation (25 points). (see below for tips)

Choose your favorite organism from assignment above, and prepare a short **powerpoint** presentation (5-6 minutes) to share more about it with the class. This project should be FUN for you, and a chance to explore and present a topic of interest to you. Take this opportunity to expand your knowledge on a topic of your choice relating to one of the organisms you featured in assignment 1 (organism assignment). Choose one of the organisms to expand upon. You can branch into any aspect of its biology, conservation, human consumption etc. using current newspapers, magazines and journals, the internet, other people (experts), books etc.

Use material available to you: Internet, scientific journals, books, people, magazines, newspapers. **You must use a minimum of 6 sources, and list those. Only three internet sources (websites) may count towards the 6 (although you can use more!).**

The powerpoint should be a series of slides that essentially organizes your information into a presentation. Each slide should be concise, and emphasize one or a few main points. Avoid lots of words on each slide, and focus instead on visuals (pictures etc.) and the key points. Please include one or a few slides for introduction and conclusion. Be critical thinkers, and don't be hesitant to express your views. The purpose of the articles is to back up your view on an issue with published information. *Have Fun!!*

## CLASS POWERPOINT PROJECT GUIDELINES: SOME TIPS

First, some general tips:

*General tip 1: narrow your topic down to a specific topic with maybe one or two specific examples.* With a short presentation, you have so little space to say anything, that a general overview (such as ‘great white sharks’), will have little impact. Try choosing one aspect of the great white shark (such as its feeding or conservation etc.), and then narrow it down to a specific example to use in your presentation. Or, choose one aspect of an animal’s biology, or one issue relating to a particular habitat, or one specific conservation issue.

*General tip 2: your project needs a title.* Try choosing a catchy title that gives the reader a clue about the specific example you pursued.

*General tip 3: Do not plagiarize* (cut and paste or otherwise copy text or words from what you read). I can tell that it’s not your words – its usually easy to see. I’d rather see some errors in your own writing than perfect but copied stuff.

*General tip 4: Proof read your work for grammar and flow.* This is a college class and I expect college level writing and idea development. If you need help with this there are resources on campus or in your friends and classmates (or me) – seek them out!

*General tip 5: You don’t have much space or time to make your point and present the information, so you need to know your subject well.* It is actually quite a bit harder to make a good presentation of a sound argument in little time (or short space). In order to do it well, you need to read, review and know your material well. This will ensure that you choose important details to present, and that your message is cohesive and strong. Also, you are doing a presentation, so imagine that people might ask you questions, and you’ll need some depth of knowledge to answer them.

**The presentation** is *short*. This is why using one (maybe two) specific examples is effective.

Have an introductory idea (this one will be about the general topic, and will introduce the specific example). This slide should also include your main point, or the main thing you are trying to say. Have a message for the reader, and make sure that message is clearly and convincingly presented. You want to change people’s minds! (or at least cause them to think about it).

Have a concluding idea. Here, you will drive home your message, and leave the listener thinking about it.

The body of the presentation is where you lay out the evidence for your message. This is why I suggest using one (or maybe two) specific examples. These are your evidence, and your way to show that its not just you saying this, but here are some concrete examples.

Make sure you have a message, that you let us know what the message is, and how you back it up.

If you have never done a powerpoint presentation, you can either just open the program and start experimenting, or seek help in the library and through other resources on campus. Let me know if you are having trouble finding help.

Some internet sites that might help:

<http://www.ismrm.org/03/ppguide.htm>

<http://www.geocities.com/~webwinds/classes/powerpt.htm>

Tips for powerpoint: remember that the guidelines presented to you are just that – guidelines. They are not rules. If your slide is different, don't worry. Just remember the general guidelines, and don't violate them by too much too often.

- Rule of thumb is no more than one slide per minute (eg. Not more than 8 slides for a 8 minute presentation. HOWEVER, that depends on the nature of each slide. Some may have more text, and take longer to explain than others that may just include a pretty picture, and is designed to be visually stimulating. So go more by a practice run than a predetermined #. You may in fact definitely have more than 8.
- Only put main points on the slide. DO NOT put lots of writing, people won't want to read it all. Instead put your main points there, and be prepared to explain them
- Use big writing (no less than 20 point font, and preferably larger). When you finish a slide, step back away from it and make sure it is easily readable.
- If you put an image such as a graph, make sure you have some main points written next to it that help the reader interpret it. Same goes for an image that is not just meant to be pretty. If you are using an image to make a point, make sure the point (or points) is/are there on the slide.

#### **Citing references.**

You need to provide a citation of your sources, so that someone else (such as me for example), will be able to look them up and find the exact same one. A good site to help you with how to cite a reference (website, book, journal etc.) is:

<http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/online/cite6.html#1>