

As a finish to the year, you will spend our last days together researching and writing a paper (min. 6 pgs typed, 12 font, dbl-spaced) on a body system, its conditions/disorders from one of the systems we studied this year.

Your paper will be broken down into **separate sections** (*think career report*). They are:

1. **Definition** of the condition (from a *medical source* - *you can use my sources found later in this document or others are acceptable*).
2. **Introduction** - An introductory description of the **body system** - the parts that constitute it, how they interact, function and contribute to the body's overall appearance & function. You will essentially be summarizing your sources .
3. An **overview** of the condition - what it is, how it affects the system you are reporting on & how it affects the human population, and so on.
4. **Demographics** of the disease/target population (age, race, etc.) - who gets (or tends to get) this condition? When does it tend to strike in a person's life? May include graphs &/or tables.
5. **Causes/Conditions** - what conditions trigger this disease? Age? Environment? Genetics? Body? etc.
6. **Symptoms** - What are they? Don't just bullet list them.
7. **Effects** How does this condition act on the body & its cells? (this portion should be very *in-depth* & from a *medical* viewpoint). Big section - may require several sources.
8. **Historical Myths** - what did people used to think was the cause of your condition? (old wives tales, mystic origins, superstition, falsely held medical beliefs, etc). Some conditions will be too "recent" to have anything here.
9. **Treatment options** or **strategies** - How are we currently treating this condition? Compare to what was done previously. Herbal & folk or alternative may be included. Why do we use this (or these) treatment(s)? BE COMPLETE in this section!
10. **Future Treatments** - If available, what is medicine looking at as potential treatment(s) "down the road". (perhaps some of you will get to do this someday!)
11. **Chances of Survival or Cure** - what's the cure rate? what are a person's chances of survival? May include graphs &/or tables.
12. **Closing** - Wrap up your report with this section. Summarize your report in the first paragraph and your discuss how you feel about what you researched in a second (or more).
13. **Bibliography/Sources** - MLA style (not included in your page count)

Some other things to pay attention to.

- ◆ Standard font & size, double spaced
- ◆ All sources must be cited & direct quotes indicated. MLA style
- ◆ Diagrams/pictures are very helpful *but aren't counted in the total length.*
- ◆ You may use footnotes.

Here's a great starting point to help guide you through writing this paper.

<http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~bioslabs/tools/report/reportform.html>

and another for helping you with the most common errors made in research papers:

<http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~bioslabs/tools/report/reporterror.html>

To help you in your initial research & beyond:

http://www.medicinenet.com/diseases_and_conditions/alpha_c.htm

www.buzzle.com/articles/diseases-and-disorders/

<http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions>

Attacking Your Research & Paper

Initially the biggest thing is to see if your topic is a "rich" research topic. Will it make for a good paper? Can I write lots for each section of the paper or am I going to be struggling to get a paragraph? And most of all, am I interested in learning something about it?

Once settled on a topic, attack the sections listed above. Go out & gather *anything* that looks like it's going to be useable. You want **multiple articles** from a *variety* of resources. *Don't focus on just doing something off the list because it is there.*

This should give you a big file, so the next step is to wade through the information and start taking bits and pieces of it, looking for conflicting information.

Formulate your paper & start converting it into your own words as a rough draft, then start typing the final draft. Although quotes are appropriate, be careful of plagiarizing. (**You want less than 10% of your paper to match other sources**). Check with TurnItIn.com before you submit a final submission!

****Electronic copy** must be turned in to Turnitin.com by **2 am June 4.**

Due Date is June 4 in class for the hard copy .

Good Researching & Good Luck!