

Sample assignment

3C. Synthesis of Research

For this assignment you are to write a **research report** on a scientific topic. Your job in this document is to synthesize the relevant knowledge on a specific area of research.

The point of the assignment + the genre: research report

Task 1. Find a scientific topic. Do some research to obtain an overview of research in this area.

Task 2. Examine the existing evidence (find between 4 and 6 different sources), and synthesize them into a coherent overview of the research.

Task 3. Using the sources that you chose, write a 800-1000 word report in which you summarize the evidence on the topic. In your report show your readers how the research can be organized into a coherent overview of the topic. Your report should help readers follow your thinking and arrive at a similar conclusion to yours about this topic.

Steps/process

Length: 800-1000 words

Purpose: Your purpose in writing this paper is to practise thinking and writing like a scientist. Assemble the evidence, decide upon the best explanation for the evidence, and then write a report in which you explain it to readers so that they will understand the case and accept your explanation. Your goal is to use the indirect style of argument that we discuss in class to make this case for readers.

The point of the assignment: "the goal of this writing assignment is to . . .

Genre: Research report. Use CSE documentation style (see pp. 384-391 in *BPH*).

Audience: Write for other science students and professors who are interested in scientific questions but unfamiliar with the details of the particular topic that you chose. Assume they have the background to understand the technical aspects of the issue but they lack the particular background on your topic.

Grading Criteria for Scientific Research Report

1. Does the assignment contain an appropriate structure?			
Criteria	Poor	Average	Excellent
• Appropriate research topic			
• At least 4 reputable sources			
• Indirect argument structure			
2. Does the writer use some of the strategies in the course materials to complete the assignment? How well are these strategies executed?			
Criteria	Poor	Average	Excellent
• topic is specific and focused			
• sources are relevant and on-topic			
• summary/paraphrase/quotation			
• comparison and contrast			
• documentation (APA, MLA, CSE)			
3. How well is the report done:			
Criteria	Poor	Average	Excellent
• clearly describes area of research			
• outlines both sides of topic			
• identifies support for one side of the research question			
4. Is the report clear, concise, and well written?			
5. Does the assignment use the format from the BPH p. 70-76 correctly?			
6. Did the writer use comments from Gwrit?			