

Guidelines for Research Papers and Class Discussion

During the semester, each of you will give a presentation/discussion and write a research paper about a particular topic related to fish culture. Your topic may be on fish culture technique, fish health issues related to fish culture, genetic or broodstock planning, use and misuse of stocked fish, ecological effects of stocking, etc.

Your topic should be narrow enough to thoroughly cover the subject in a brief (25 min) class presentation/discussion and a 5 to 8-page paper. You will present your topic to Dr. Steinhart no later than 6 February and hand-in a minimum of 5 peer-reviewed references (bibliography format, not the whole paper) no later than 20 February. These deadlines are to assure that you have time to acquire your source papers. Please feel free to discuss topics before the deadline – I do want to make sure you have selected an appropriate topic.

Research paper:

The goal of your research paper is to discuss and synthesize what is known about a fish culture question, problem, and a solution(s). Therefore, you should thoroughly explore the literature to find papers on your topic to provide a synthesis. **Do not simply review the contents** of each paper without drawing comparisons with other studies: synthesize material from multiple studies.

Your review paper must have at least **five peer-review references (from journals or scholarly books. NO internet references, agency reports, or textbooks are allowed!)**. Having trouble finding other papers? Start with the literature cited section of a paper on your topic. Find your papers early, in case you need to order them on interlibrary loan.

Your review paper should be 5-8 pages, 1" margins, double-spaced, in 12 pt. times or times new roman font. **Follow TAFS format** for citations and references (unless you have a different format approved by the instructor). The TAFS instructions for authors can be found on my "classes" web page, along with a document that has general writing tips and common mistakes.

Keep in mind that five references and five pages are MINIMUMS. You won't get an excellent grade by only doing the minimum.

Class presentation/discussion:

You will prepare a presentation to be given to the class at the end of the semester. There will be two students presenting each day, so limit your total presentation to no more than 25 min. For the presentation, you must do the following:

1. Identify a paper that the class should read on your topic and provide the paper to Dr. Steinhart at least 1 week before your presentation.
2. Your presentation should start with an overview of the topic drawing information from your research paper and references within, although you may highlight the paper read by the class more than the others (minimum of 15 min).
3. Towards the end of your presentation, you should segue into a discussion of the paper read by the class or a general discussion (minimum of 5 min).
4. Your presentation should be outlined to cover the problem, the impact of the problem, and solutions. Make sure to cover conflicting opinions or solutions on the topic (if present)
5. The use of PowerPoint is optional for your presentation – consider using the white board for an outline or to highlight key points.