

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. Please feel free to ask me about your topic – I want to make sure everyone has selected an appropriate topic.

Your topic should be narrow enough to cover the subject in a brief (25 min) class presentation and a 5 to 8-page paper. You will present your topic to Dr. Steinhart no later than 5 February and hand-in a minimum of 5 peer-reviewed references (bibliography format, not the whole paper) no later than 19 February. These deadlines are to assure that you have time to acquire your source papers.

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 paper must have at least **five peer-review references (from journals or scholarly books. NO internet references or textbooks are allowed! Agency reports can be used, but do not count towards your five references)**. Having trouble finding papers? Start with the literature cited section of a paper on your topic. Search the North American Journal of Aquaculture (<http://afsjournals.org>, we have it in the library). 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 the course 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 me by 26 March.
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 (about 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 (about 10 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.