

HUMAN BIOLOGY

Zoology LS1020

Fall 2012

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Objective: To understand how scientific studies are conducted and how the results are presented.

Background

Scientific journals differ from magazines in that they publish objective scientific reports rather than opinions. However, the two most widely-read journals, *Science* and *Nature* include both news and opinion and reports. The first third of each issue of these journals is devoted to news and summaries of research published in that issue. These summaries are meant to be understandable to non-scientists. The second two-thirds of these journals consists of research papers. These articles are meant for specialists and will be difficult for you to understand.

1. Consult the journals *Science* or *Nature*, both of which can be found in the Stewart Library.
2. Find an appropriate research paper that is mentioned in the news section of the journal. Appropriate papers are those relating to human biology, from the molecular and cellular levels, to anatomy and physiology, to ecology and evolution.
3. Provide the following information:
 - The title of the paper, and the names and affiliations of the scientists who conducted the research.
 - The hypothesis to be tested. Be as specific as possible.
 - The experimental system (organism or cell type) used.
 - The number of figures and tables in the research paper.
4. Using both articles, provide a one- to two-page summary, in your own words, of the research paper. In the final paragraph, address these questions: Is this a new study, or one that continues previous work? Why is this research important?
5. Include a copy of the first page of the research article, stapled at the end of your report.

Organization

Be sure to include your name, course name (Zool 1020), and date on the first page. The report should be double-spaced and all pages stapled together.

Grading

The assignment is worth 40 points and will be graded based on the following criteria:

Appropriate topic for human biology	5 points
Proper format	5 points
Clear organization and writing	10 points
Knowledge of human biology apparent	15 points
Critical analysis	5 points

Consult your syllabus for the due date. Late assignments will be penalized 5 points per half day.