Biology Research Project and HACC-Con Student Research Conference

1. Select a biological topic you are interested in for this research project. Explore your textbook or search biology news websites like *Science News* (https://www.sciencenews.org/) for ideas, or see me if you’re not sure about a topic and we can discuss some options based on your interests. Think of a topic that is not too large in scope, but also one that is not too small either. In addition to your topic, write a 1- to 2-paragraph description of your topic and research focus. You may work by yourself or with a partner on this project.

I also encourage you to think of a thesis with a popular culture focus (exploring the relationship of your topic to television, film, music, art, comic books, video games, internet culture, etc.) so you can present your project *(optionally for extra credit)* in the HACC-Con Student Research Conference held in April.

*Topics are approved on a “first-come, first-served” basis*, so have several back-up topic ideas ready just in case a classmate already selected your first choice. Please see me as soon as possible if you need help. Your Topic and a 1- to 2-paragraph Description/Thesis must be submitted to me in writing and approved by Friday, February 6.

2. As soon as your topic is approved, you may begin researching it using our excellent HACC York library databases, websites, books, magazine and newspaper articles, blogs, interviews, etc. Please check with me or a librarian if you’re unsure about the quality or validity of any resource. You must include at least 7 sources of research information in your project, 4 of which must be scholarly sources from peer-reviewed academic journals or books, not popular websites. Your textbook does NOT count as one of your 7 sources. You must cite all of your sources using *in-text parenthetical citations* throughout your paper, as well as include an alphabetized list of all of your sources in a “Works Cited” section at the end of your paper. You may write your sources using the current versions of either the MPA or APA citation format. For citation help and examples of correct format styles, use the [OWL at Purdue Formatting and Style Guide](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/). Your *Works Cited* must be approved by me by Friday, February 27.

3. In addition to your written research paper, you must also include visual aids (photos, illustrations, diagrams, videos) in the form of a *Powerpoint* or *Prezi*. Use Creative Commons licensed images as much as possible to avoid copyright issues. You can find thousands of excellent Creative Commons images on the photo-sharing website, Flickr (www.flickr.com). Use the “Advanced Search” feature and scroll-down to the bottom of the page and check the boxes to search for Creative Commons licensed images.

I encourage you to try something new and create a Prezi (http://prezi.com/) for the visual component of your project. Please watch the tutorial videos and read the “Cheat Sheets” available under the “Learn” tab on the Prezi homepage. Look at other Prezis by browsing under the “Explore” tab. Please see me with any questions you have about the creation of your Prezi!
4. A Working Draft of your project is due by **Monday, March 30**. The Working Draft is your paper (at least 6 to 7 pages in length) and project in its “finished” state, complete with your research information, in-text parenthetical citations, Works Cited section, and Powerpoint or Prezi visual aids. You may print a copy of your paper or email it to me (along with your Powerpoint file) at rjswatsk@hacc.edu as PDF file attachments. If you created a Prezi, please email me your presentation weblink. I will review your Working Draft and provide you with feedback and suggestions for revisions.

5. You will then have time to make any necessary revisions and finish your Final Project by **Friday, April 17**. All of the individual project components must be completed by the scheduled due dates listed above. A **deduction of one letter grade per day late will be applied to any late work**. Your Biology Research Project grade counts for **10%** of your overall course grade.

6. You can earn **3% points to your overall course grade** by participating in the **HACC-Con Student Research Conference** held on Wednesday, April 15 and Thursday, April 16. You must register for the conference by **Monday, March 2** and submit your research paper to the HACC-Con D2L page by **Monday, April 6**.

In order to participate in HACC-Con you must also either create a **poster** (tri-fold style) or give a **15-minute presentation with visual aids**. Participants who enter under the poster session category are expected to stand by their poster at a scheduled time to discuss their project and answer audience questions. You even have the possibility of winning cash prizes for your efforts! For more information on HACC-Con, please visit [http://libguides.hacc.edu/York_HACC_CON](http://libguides.hacc.edu/York_HACC_CON)

I strongly encourage you to utilize the many support services available such as the Library, Writing Center, HACC-Con workshops, and meet with me (your mentor) to help you shape your paper, create your visuals, and practice your presentation if you are participating in HACC-Con.

**IMPORTANT BIOLOGY RESEARCH PROJECT AND HACC-CON DUE DATES!**

**Topic and Project Description/Thesis**: Friday, February 6  
**Works Cited**: Friday, February 27  
**HACC-Con registration**: Monday, March 2  
**Working Draft**: Monday, March 30  
**HACC-Con paper submission via D2L**: Monday, April 6 by midnight  
**Optional HACC-Con Rehearsal Sessions**: Thursday, April 9 and Friday, April 10  
**HACC-Con Presentations**: Wednesday, April 15 and Thursday, April 16  
**Final Projects**: Friday, April 17