

As part of your grade for this course, you are required to research a topic dealing with some aspect of animal behavior and present that information in a format of your choosing. This project is designed to teach you how to research information, compile and organize that information, and assemble it into a clear, intelligent, informative presentation. I hope that along the way, you will also learn more about the behavior of interest to you!

This assignment **will NOT be graded lightly**. If any of the requirements (explained below) are not met, you will not receive a good grade. Presentation of the material is also important. You should use appropriate language and correct grammar. For all written text, words should be spelled correctly and proper punctuation should be used. The final project should be well written (or spoken) and presented in a clear and organized manner so that a logical, coherent story is told.

This project is worth a total of 100 points and is **due no later than 5:00pm, Wed. Mar. 21**. In some, very rare cases, late papers **may** be accepted at the discretion of the teacher and **ONLY if the student has made contact with the teacher and discussed the circumstances surrounding the need for an extension prior to the due date**.

Below is the list of **requirements that must be met**.

Content:

You can approach this project in one of two ways:

1. **Choose an animal and research several of its unique behaviors.** If you choose this approach, **the following information MUST be included**:
 - A **description of the animal**. At minimum include what it looks like, where it lives and the type of habitat it uses.
 - The **status of the animal** – is it threatened or endangered? If it is, include a brief description of what has caused it to be threatened or endangered. If it isn't threatened or endangered, you need to explain why.
 - A **description & discussion of at least 2 different “types” of behavior**, e.g. reproductive, foraging, social, play. This must include:
 - ✓ **A description of the behavior**. This description should include information such as: the sensory channels over which the behavior is displayed (e.g. visual, chemical, auditory, tactile, electric); when the animal performs the behavior (e.g. what season, time of day); who performs it (both sexes, only one sex) and what the specific function or goal is.
 - ✓ **The adaptive value of the behavior**. Think about this in terms of the benefits the animal receives by doing the behavior the way it does. I understand it often seems as if the adaptive value is obvious, e.g. the animal forages for food because it has to eat to stay alive. Although some of that is okay, you also need to delve more deeply and interpret the behavior in terms of the specific function as it applies to that animal. Try to assess the adaptive value with respect to the specific way the animal forages and the strategies it uses. E.g. Animal X is a nocturnal hunter. It hunts at night because it is better concealed in the dark. This allows it to sneak up more closely before attacking, which helps to increase its success rate. It also provides animal X protection from other animals that may be trying to eat it.

2. **Choose a type of behavior and compare it among different animals.** If you choose this approach, **the following information must be included:**
- A **description of the behavior**, and a **discussion of its adaptive value**. See #1 for information that much be included.
 - A **brief description of the different animals** you are going to compare. You need to **include at least 2 different animals** or animal groups.
 - The **status of the animals** – are they threatened or endangered? If they are, include a brief description of what has caused them to be threatened or endangered, or state that they are not.
 - The **differences and similarities among the different animals**. Think in terms of how each animal uses the behavior, how they perform it and the different sensory channels involved. Your discussion of the differences and similarities must include both animals.

Format:

Again, all of the following **requirements must be met** if you want to ensure a good grade for this assignment.

1. You must **include a title** for your project, and include the course name and number, your name, and the date.
2. Written text must be between 1200-1500 words, NOT counting the titles or bibliography.
3. **Quotations are not permitted.** All information must be written in your own words.
4. All written text should have **no typos, misspelled or misused words**. By all means use the spell check. However, there are many words that the spell check will not pick up because they are real words. You **MUST proofread your text** to make sure these mistakes don't occur. Also, if you want to use a word and are not sure what it means, please look it up first. Make sure you know what you are saying.
5. Your project must be based on information gathered from **at least 3 different sources**. You may NOT use online encyclopedias (e.g. Wikipedia, Britannica online) as a source.

The SBCC library website (library.sbcc.edu) is a great place to find sources. They have an online system that will allow you to search for specific content. If you choose the “articles” or “journals” tabs, the search will provide you with reputable sources that are available in their entirety online (meaning you can do all your research from the comfort of your couch).

However, if you choose to find information simply by just searching the internet (via Google for example), use caution. Just because something is posted on the internet does not mean it contains accurate and reliable information. In general, any **Internet sources that have “.EDU” in the URL are acceptable**. (Example: www.ucsb.edu/biology/bears...) This indicates the source is from an educational institution. If you find an Internet source that is NOT “.edu”, please ask me about it first. Also, you can check the site:

<http://www.virtualsalt.com/evalu8it.htm>

for more information about how to evaluate the information posted on the internet. Or, just be safe and stick to the library website.

6. Your project must **include references cited or a bibliography**. Each reference must include all of the following information:
- Author(s) of the article or book
 - Year it was published
 - Title of article or book
 - Volume of magazine or book, if applicable
 - Publisher of book
 - Page numbers from which you found the information used

Formatting References. There are a variety of ways to format the bibliography page, e.g. CSE, APA, MLA. I prefer the CSE because it is the type most commonly used for scientific publications. However, you may use which ever format you prefer as long as you are consistent. If you use MLA for one reference, you need to use MLA for the entire bibliography. You **will** lose points for incorrect formatting.

Finally, **references must be arranged alphabetically on the page according the last name of the first author.**

7. All text **must be written or spoken in a clear, coherent fashion and must use proper English**. Grammar counts! Make sure every sentence has a subject and verb. Paragraphs should consist of a group of related sentences. If you start a new thought, you should also start a new paragraph. Paragraphs should flow together in an orderly and coherent manner. Present all information pertaining to one idea in the same paragraph or under a single subheading.

Proof read your text several times. Use your spell checker, but don't depend on it. Many commonly misspelled words our not detected bye spell checking programs. Four instance, a spell checker would not detect "mourning" as a misspelling for "morning", nor would it find "form" as a misspelling for "from".

If English is not your first language (or even if it is!), you should have someone else proofread any text for your project.

8. Finally, you will **turn in** your final project to me during class, no later than **Mar. 21**. You are **also required to submit all text (except titles and bibliography) from your project to turnitin.com**. See page 5 for directions on how to do this.

NOTE: if the text portion of your project is not submitted to Turnitin.com, your project will not be graded and will receive a 0 grade.

Turnitin.com and what it means to your grade

Turnitin.com is an online tool to help detect and prevent plagiarism. When you submit the text of your project, turnitin.com compares the content to a library of sources. Sources include online periodicals, journals, publications, dictionaries, encyclopedias, current and archived internet content, and previously submitted student papers – including projects submitted for this class. Based on this comparison, turnitin.com generates an originality report. This report includes the percentage of the content of your text that matches other sources. A score of 0% indicates your text was completely original and did not match any other sources. A score of

100% indicates all of the content your text matched one or more sources. The report also highlights the content where a match was found and gives the source.

I allow up to a 20% match before deducting points from your final score. If your score is between 21% and 50%, I will deduct an equivalent percentage of points from your final score. For example, let's say your originality score is 40%. This means that 40% of your project is NOT original work, e.g. 40% of your text matched the content of one or more sources and so I will deduct 40% of the points off the final score of your project. If your graded project earned a score of 95 out of 100, but your originality score is 40%, I will deduct 38 points (40% of 95) and your final score will be 57 out of 100. If your originality score 51% or higher, you will receive no credit (0 points) for this project. Once you submit your text to turnitin.com you will be able to view your originality report. You should plan to do this far enough ahead of time to be able to amend your project if your score comes in too high.

The take home message is: **DO NOT** plagiarize! The point of doing research is to gather information from a variety of sources and then put it together **in your own words**. Imagine you are the expert on this topic and are explaining it to someone else. Your explanation must be **in your own words**, not copied from some source.

Project Format Options & Specific Requirements:

1. **A traditional research paper.** Follow all the content guidelines stated above. Paper should be 1200-1500 words in length, not including the title page or the bibliography. Paper should be typed, double-spaced. All pages, except title page, must be numbered. Page number "1" is the first page after the title page. You will **turn in a hard copy of your paper to me and submit the body of the paper to turnitin.com**. Please do NOT submit the title page or the bibliography page.
2. **A powerpoint presentation.** Follow all the content guidelines stated above. The presentation should have an opening title slide, followed by a minimum of 15 slides and ending with a slide listing your references in proper format. All text should be written using complete sentences and be 1200-1500 words in length. You will **turn in a copy of the presentation on a CD or email it to me**. You will also **submit the text to turnitin.com**. (You will have to create another document with just the text to do this. Turnitin.com does not accept ppt files.) Please do NOT submit the titles or references to turnitin.com.
3. **A video.** The video should be around 10-15 minutes in length and clearly illustrate the content described above. You must include narration to describe and interpret what the audience is seeing. This narration should address all the requirements stated above and be of the proper length (1200-1500 words). Your video should have a title and the credits at the end should show the references (written in proper format) and acknowledge from where the video clips were obtained. You will **turn in a copy of the video on DVD along with a hard copy of your script**. You must also **submit the script to turnitin.com**. Please do NOT submit the titles or references to turnitin.com.
4. **Other.** I'm sure there are many other ways to complete this project and you are welcome to choose one. If you want to do something other than the 3 options listed here, please talk to me first so we can make sure you know what will be expected.

Directions for Submitting your Paper to Turnitin.com

Step 1: Register

- Go to Turnitin.com <<http://www.turnitin.com>>
- Click on “Create account” located just under the white login box and follow the prompts on the screen.
- Once you have completed registration, you will need to enroll in a class.
- Click on “enroll in a class”.
- You will now be asked for a CLASS ID and ENROLLMENT PASSWORD. For this class (Animal Behavior – Spring 2012):
The class ID: **4816547**
The enrollment Password: **behave**

Step 2: Submit your text

- log in to the Turnitin.com website using the email address and password you created when you registered

Once you are logged in, a page will open that shows you the class ID, class name and my name (Burnell, K).

- click on the class name “Animal Behavior – Spring 2012”

You should now see a page with an “assignment inbox & portfolio.”
The only assignment in the assignment list is “research project.”

- Click on “submit”
- Choose how you wish to submit your paper (either upload or cut and paste). If uploading, use the browse button to locate the file on your computer.
- Enter your name and a title for your paper and click “submit”
- Your paper will appear and you’ll be asked to verify it is the paper you wish to submit. If it is, click “submit.”
- If all goes well, a turnitin digital receipt will be sent to the email account you registered.
- Make sure you check for this receipt and save it. If you don’t receive one, something did not work and your paper did not get submitted. You are responsible to make sure your papers are submitted on time and this receipt is verification you did so. Occasionally, students have successfully submitted an assignment but for some reason I never got it. If this happens, the ONLY proof you have that you did submit the assignment on time is this email receipt and if you want to get credit for it you MUST be able to show me this receipt. DO NOT DELETE IT!

Animal Approach – traditional paper

Content = 70 points

- _____ Description of animal = 9 points
 ___ appearance (3); ___ habitat (3); ___ geographic location (3)

- _____ Status of animal & why = 5 points
 ___ listed as threatened/endangered (2); ___ explanation of why or why not (3)

- _____ Description of behaviors = 30 points (15/behavior)
 ___ sensory channels (3); ___ when (3); ___ who (3); ___ function (3); ___ misc. (3) _____
 ___ sensory channels (3); ___ when (3); ___ who (3); ___ function (3); ___ misc. (3) _____

- _____ Adaptive value of behavior = 16 points
 ___ behavior 1 (8); ___ behavior 2 (8)

- _____ References = 10 points
 ___ three appropriate sources (3); ___ alphabetical order (2); ___ correct format (5)

Presentation & Style = 30 points

- _____ Typed & double-spaced (2)

- _____ Pages numbered correctly (3)
 ___ pages numbered; ___ no number on title page; ___ page “1” first after title page

- _____ Title (4)
 ___ paper title; ___ course name; ___ your name; ___ date

- _____ Use of complete, proper sentences (7)

- _____ Coherent paragraphs (7)

- _____ No typos, misspelled or misused words (7)

_____ Total = 100 points

Point adjustments:

_____ *Turnitin.com originality score* _____

_____ *Word count (< 1200, -10; > 1500, -5)*

_____ Final Grade

Animal Approach – powerpoint

Content = 70 points

- _____ Description of animal = 9 points
 ___ appearance (3); ___ habitat (3); ___ geographic location (3)
- _____ Status of animal & why = 5 points
 ___ listed as threatened/endangered (2); ___ explanation of why or why not (3)
- _____ Description of behaviors = 30 points (15/behavior)
 ___ sensory channels (3); ___ when (3); ___ who (3); ___ function (3); ___ misc. (3) _____
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- _____ Adaptive value of behavior = 16 points
 ___ behavior 1 (8); ___ behavior 2 (8)
- _____ References = 10 points
 ___ three appropriate sources (3); ___ alphabetical order (2); ___ correct format (5)

Presentation & Style = 30 points

- _____ Minimum 15 slides (not including title or references) (2)
- _____ Visually appealing (good use of pictures, easy to read, etc.) (3)
- _____ Title (4)
 ___ project title; ___ course name; ___ your name; ___ date
- _____ Use of complete, proper sentences (7)
- _____ Coherent paragraphs (7)
- _____ No typos, misspelled or misused words (7)

_____ Total = 100 points

Point adjustments:

_____ Turnitin.com originality score _____

_____ Word count (< 1200, -10; > 1500, -5)

_____ Final Grade

Behavior Approach – traditional paper

Content = 70 points

_____ Description of behavior & adaptive value = 22 points
____ sensory channels (3); ____ when (3); ____ who (3); ____ function (3); ____ misc. (3)
____ adaptive value (7)

_____ Description of animals = 12 points (6 points/animal)
____ appearance (2); ____ habitat (2); ____ geographic location (2)
____ appearance (2); ____ habitat (2); ____ geographic location (2)

_____ Status of animals & why = 6 points (3 points/animal)
____ listed as threatened/endangered (1); ____ explanation of why or why not (2)
____ listed as threatened/endangered (1); ____ explanation of why or why not (2)

_____ Comparison of behavior among animals = 20 points
____ differences among animals (10)
____ similarities among animals (10)

_____ References = 10 points
____ three appropriate sources (3); ____ alphabetical order (2); ____ correct format (5)

Presentation & Style = 30 points

_____ Typed & double-spaced (2)

_____ Pages numbered correctly (3)
____ pages numbered; ____ no number on title page; ____ page "1" first after title page

_____ Title (4)
____ paper title; ____ course name; ____ your name; ____ date

_____ Use of complete, proper sentences (7)

_____ Coherent paragraphs (7)

_____ No typos, misspelled or misused words (7)

_____ **Total = 100 points**

Point adjustments:

_____ *Turnitin.com originality score* _____

_____ *Word count (< 1200, -10; > 1500, -5)*

_____ **Final Grade**

Behavior Approach – powerpoint

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 - ___ sensory channels (3); ___ when (3); ___ who (3); ___ function (3); ___ misc. (3)
 - ___ adaptive value (7)

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- _____ **Total = 100 points**

Point adjustments:

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_____ **Final Grade**