

Evolution Assignment 1: The Darwin Awards

"The Darwin Awards salute the improvement of the human genome by honoring those who accidentally remove themselves from it in a spectacular manner!" (darwinawards.com)

This is your first assignment for Topic 9, worth 2.5 % of your course mark.

Do the "Darwin Awards" appropriately honour Darwin's ideas of natural selection or do they promote misconceptions regarding evolution? Using one of the 2019 or 2018 Darwin Awards recipients as an example, critically evaluate if this award indeed honors Darwin's idea of "struggle for existence". For common misconceptions see p. 405 textbook.

This is an individual written assignment of **up to 250 words**. Please submit a double-spaced document (.pdf preferred) with normal margins, 11 or 12 font size and include a word count. Use concise formal writing, good paragraph structure, include an appropriate thesis statement and a conclusion to your writing. Include a reference list at the end of your assignment, this is not included in your word count.

Required sources:

Your textbook, CBC Ideas podcast, Darwin Awards, The Evolution Institute (all but your textbook linked in this folder)

If using additional online resources, ensure that they are from scientific organizations and are referenced. Using online resources from public universities and museums is acceptable, since these organizations usually have an internal peer review process. Referencing non-scientific sources is not acceptable.

To give credit to the sources listed above for in text citations use: (Russell et al. 2019), (CBC Ideas 2020), (Darwin Awards 2020), (Evolution Institute 2020), with a full reference list of sources at the end of your assignment.

For rubric see next page

Rubric:

	0-4	5-6	7-8	9-10
Thesis statement /2	Non-existent to poor	Acceptable, much too long, unclear or missing details	Good, may be a little too long or unclear	Concise and insightful
Supporting Arguments /4	Non-existent to poor, does not discuss example	Acceptable, logic regarding example used not always clear	Good arguments, could be more concise, shows clear logic	Shows clear logic, concise and insightful arguments
Conclusion /2	Non-existent to poor	Acceptable, much too long, unclear or missing details	Good, may be a little too long or unclear	Concise and insightful
Organization and Structure /1	No attempt at organization or structure	Acceptable, needs major revisions	Good, needs minor revisions	Excellent
Format /1	No reference list, several formatting requirements were not met, exceeds word limit by more than 30	Issues with references, 2-3 formatting requirements were not met or exceeds word limit by up to 30	Only minor issues with references, one formatting requirement not met, or exceeds word limit by up to 15	Excellent

Total: 10 points