

SHOWCASING KNOWLEDGE WITH A GROUP BLOG ON FOOD RESOURCES

Plants & People (PBIO1030)

A blog is an online tool for posting ideas, information and links and fostering discussion. In this blog assignment you will work as a team to showcase your knowledge about the variety of plants used in foods or food products.

Instructions:

This project is evaluated based on both your individual and group contributions (see RUBRIC on page 5).

1. Due on **Monday, Sept. 9**. Your group will come to a decision in class on Sept. 9 but you may want to do some preliminary research before that class period:
 - a) As a group, decide on a topic related to food resources. Examples: a globally themed meal; sustainable agriculture or agroforestry systems; food as medicine. You can do preliminary research before your group meets and makes a decision on this.
 - b) Decide what subtopic each person in your group will address. Examples: a recipe describing the plants that are included; the techniques people use to grow plants for food; the nutritional information for particular plants. These are only suggestions but be sure that your focus is on vegetation. If you discuss animals, you must talk about how they depend on particular plants.

Each person must do some research and writing about your topic. Use primarily factual information in your writing, not opinion. You must contribute something new to what we already covered in class; you will not receive credit for reiterating anything that was covered in the readings or PowerPoints. See page 2 for specific instructions on your individual portion.

- c) Decide on the responsibilities of each person in your group for the entire assignment. The form on page 6 will be distributed in class. Complete the form for your group, make a copy for yourselves, and turn it in on **Monday, Sept. 9**.
 - d) Review the due dates and determine if your group will need an extension, based on your schedule for other classes. You may ask for an extension for any part, as long as it is done at least one week before the due date. Work may also be completed earlier than the due dates if you choose.
2. Due on **Monday, Oct. 7**: Individual Research portion. Write a draft of your portion in time for it to be proofread by other group members. Your finished individual product must be submitted to SafeAssign by Monday, Oct. 7. Do not post these to the blog until they have been checked for plagiarism and approved by Dr. Thompson. Errors in individual submissions must be corrected for the group blog. Details of your writing assignment are on pages 2-3.
3. Your group will establish a blog site. WordPress (<https://wordpress.com/?ref=wporg-download>) is free and I will be able to help you navigate it. You are welcome to suggest another if it is publicly accessible (e.g., does not require a Gmail account). Record the web address for your blog and the password (each group member should have these). You will also include the following information on your Blog home page: **Ohio University, Dr. Thompson's Plants & People (PBIO1030) course, Fall 2019**.
4. Complete your blog. You can have tabs for multiple pages or use one page for all. Include each person's name or initials by their section. Part of the group grade will be based on overall grammar, spelling and appearance of the blog showcase so be sure that each of you is involved in the final design and making corrections.
5. Due on **Monday, Oct. 28**. One member of your group will send me a link to their completed website – check with each other to ensure this was done. Points will be lost for emailing the link late or for multiple emails.

6. Due on **Friday, Nov. 8**: Comment on at least one other blog from the class - copy your comment and the blog link and post to the Discussion Board. Go to the Blackboard site for PBIO1030, select *Discussions*, click on *Blog Comments*, click on *Create Thread* and, in the subject line, paste the link to your comments. Your name will automatically appear when you submit it. This is part of your individual grade. Your comment will not become publicly available until the group makes it public but it will be graded from the Discussion Board.
7. Due on **Wednesday, Nov. 13**: Share your blog with friends or family and ask them to post a comment. The comment will not be immediately made public as someone in your group will have to approve it. This is part of your group grade. If each group member has one family member or friend (outside of this class) post a comment, you will earn all the points for this. These must be made available to the public so that I can view them.

Instructions for your Individual assignment, due to SafeAssign on **Monday, Oct. 7**:

- Each individual contribution must (1) be one double spaced page of text (350 words or more); (2) reference at least two reliable sources; (3) have in-text citations and (4) include, on page 2 of your Safe Assign submission, the image you will post on the blog (for credit, it must be published with the blog and appropriately referenced with the URL where it was found and any copyright details).
- The text of the writing should include an introductory paragraph about your subtopic and how it relates to the group topic. Then write several paragraphs about your chosen subtopic with a brief conclusion in your last paragraph that ties your content back to the group topic. Your writing must include a connection to at least ONE of these concepts, covered in class: Ecosystem Services (correctly identifying the service); Indigenous Plant Use; Plants Parts; Plant Reproduction.
- Put everything in your own words - no quotes or plagiarized material. We will discuss what constitutes plagiarism in class and you are expected to follow the expectations set forth in class.
- You can make your blog personal, if you choose. You may write a sentence or two explaining any experiences you have with your topic but this must be a complement to referenced material, not a substitute.
- Sources: use peer reviewed scientific articles, government websites (look for .gov), or other approved sources. Some .org sites, such as UNESCO or botanic gardens, are reputable but you check with me about others to be sure that they are acceptable sources.
- Include a list of references for all your sources using the exact format provided on page 3. Use in-text citations that match references (follow format on page 4). If an entire paragraph is from one reference, cite it only at the end of that paragraph. Cite at least one source per paragraph. References must be complete and alphabetized. These should be included with individual sections on your group blog, not as a separate page.
- Include only your name on the individual contribution that is uploaded to SafeAssign and NO information about the class. Long headers, large font, wide margins, and images will NOT count toward your one page requirement.
- Upload your individual document to SafeAssign on our Blackboard site by Oct. 7.
 - ✓ Type your page into a document that you can upload to SafeAssign (.doc, .docx, .docm, .rtf, .pdf, and .html). Web links will not work. Go to Attach File and upload your document. No submissions that show up in the Comments instead of as a file will be graded. Check for an Originality Report.
 - ✓ Check the box under Plagiarism Tools: "I agree to submit my paper(s) to the Global Reference Database."
 - ✓ View the SafeAssign Originality Report to be sure that it was properly submitted and to ensure that you have not plagiarized. Reports can take 24 hours to process so submit early enough for review. You can re-submit your paper - only the final submission will be graded. Changing a couple of words does not make the phrase your own and this will be considered plagiarism. Although you will use citations to give credit for information, the phrases you use must be your own. No quotes.

HELP! A writing center is available at Ohio University. Find out more here: <https://www.ohio.edu/uc/aac/swc>. If you schedule an appointment with them, you will need to bring a copy of the assignment instructions and an initial draft of your paper.

REFERENCES

References are listed in alphabetical order by last name of the first author of each publication. Include only those references that you have actually read and that you specifically mention in your blog. References for **images** should include the article reference or full URL for the website from which it was taken and any copyright or photographer information that is available.

In science, the format of the References section varies slightly from one scientific journal to another; each provides an “Instructions to Authors” that describes the format for the References section and all other requirements for papers they will accept. You will follow the examples below for this assignment.

It is NOT acceptable to replace these format instructions with APA or MLA or any other format. If you use a citation engine, you must re-format the information to make it fit these examples. For examples, do not use all caps or double space your references. Follow these instructions, exactly. Contact me with questions if your source does not seem to fit within the categories here.

Internet

These sources must be from a reputable site (such as .gov). The complete web address should be provided so that anyone else could easily visit the same website. Include the following elements:

1. author(s) (last name, first initial). If no author is listed, start with the name of the organization.
2. date created or updated (if available)
3. title of the page
4. URL – the full web address must be provided
5. the date accessed

- **Example of an internet reference:**

U.S. Department of Agriculture/National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Extension.
<https://nifa.usda.gov/extension>. Accessed on 8-5-19.

[Examples on how to cite government websites when no author is listed can also be found here:
<http://libguides.gwumc.edu/c.php?g=27779&p=170369>]

Journal and Magazine Articles, even if they are found online.

- **Format:**

Each authors' last name, first initial. Date of publication. Title of article. *Title of publication* volume:page numbers.

DO NOT include your search engine (e.g. <http://eds.b.ebscohost.com/>) or any website for a scientific journal article, unless it is only an online publication.

- **Example:**

Thompson, K., Culley, T. Zumberger, A., Lentz, D. 2015. Genetic variation and structure in the neotropical tree, *Manilkara zapota*, used by the ancient Maya. *Tree Genetics & Genomes* 11:40-52.

In-Text Citations on next page

IN-TEXT CITATIONS

Use the Name-Year System for this assignment. Do not cite each sentence unless they have different authors. You must provide a citation at least at the end of each paragraph.

One-author example: U.S. Department of Agriculture (2019) offers educational resources to local communities.

OR: Educational services are provided through Extension services (U.S. Department of Agriculture 2019).

Two author example: (Smith & Jones 1999) or Smith & Jones (1999).

More than two authors: use the first author's last name, followed by et al., Latin for “and others.” For example, (Thompson et al. 2015) or Thompson et al. (2015). The complete list of authors must appear in the reference at the end of your paper.

In-text citations must match the references – for the examples above:

(Thompson et al. 2015) matches the reference:

Thompson, K., Culley, T. Zumberger, A., Lentz, D. 2015. Genetic variation and structure in the neotropical tree, *Manilkara zapota*, used by the ancient Maya. *Tree Genetics & Genomes* 11:40-52.

You should never use a page title as an in-text citation. For example, the citation matching the reference:

U.S. Department of Agriculture/National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Extension.

<https://nifa.usda.gov/extension>. Accessed on 8-5-19. is

(U.S. Department of Agriculture 2019), NOT (Extension 2019) or (USDA 2019).

NOTE: If there is no author or organization listed, it is not a reputable source.

Rubric for Blog Assignment		
Expectations	Group Points*	Individual Points*
Blog topic and individual roles turned in by Monday, Sept. 9.	5	
Individual contribution submitted to SafeAssign by Monday, Oct. 7 Content of individual submission is accurate, well-written and meets expectations outlined on pages 1- 2. Plagiarism will result in a zero for the entire assignment.		25
Two reliable sources with references and in-text citations following the exact formats on pages 3 and 4. In-text citations provided if more than one reference is used.		10
Image or diagram included in Blog website , properly referenced with the website link and photographer, if available.		5
Blog completed by Monday, Oct. 28 with link sent to Dr. Thompson by ONLY one group member.	5	
Overall appearance, grammar and spelling of blog components. Course information included (see page 1, #5).	20	
Comment on another group's blog with link posted to the Discussion Forum by Friday, Nov. 8. Comment must directly relate to the blog post and not be too general.		10
Comments on your blog from people outside the class (One per group member, due Monday, Nov. 13).	10	
Participation evaluation completed by the group in class, Monday, Dec. 2	10	
Total	50	50

***For any component that is late, 10% of the points will be deducted per day.**

Due September 9, 2019 (save a copy for yourself)

Group Number:

TOPIC: _____

Choose responsibilities. You may modify the roles but every group member should be listed at least once.

Group Member Names:

ROLES for Group work (these are optional categories)

_____	Set up the WordPress site and share link with each member Our password will be:
_____	Include class information on Blog home page
_____	Upload photos/images to the site
_____	Proofreader
_____	Send link for completed blog to Dr. Thompson (11/1/19)
_____	Manage comments on the blog (make them public)
_____	Other -

Signatures:

I agree to communicate with my group members, be respectful of each person's ideas, and complete my work on time. I will do quality work that will benefit my group. I agree that the finished public product may be used for educational or promotional purposes by Ohio University or as a component of a teaching dossier by Dr. Thompson.

SIGN

PRINT NAME

_____	_____
_____	_____
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_____	_____

Group Participation, due Monday, Dec. 2, 2019 (in class):

As a group, discuss these questions about your team experiences and record your responses. Give specific examples. Each individual in the group must contribute and initial this form.

1. How would you describe your group in terms of leadership or team structure?
2. What are some ways that your group worked well together to complete the blog?
3. What challenges did you face as you worked through this project?
4. How did your group handle these challenges?
5. If you were to repeat this experience, what strategies would you keep or change?
6. Were there any individuals who emerged as leaders? What leadership strategies either helped this group or could be improved?
7. Were there any individuals who did not participate fully? What do you suggest would help them become more active participants? The individual who did not participate fully should also share what would help them.
8. Any other comments from the group about the project itself or the group process?