

BMS 211 Biochemistry Writing Assignment

This assignment is to gauge your ability to apply your knowledge of biochemistry to new topics that may resemble those that will be brought to you by future patients. A paper of 3-4 pages should be prepared, discussing a health-related claim that can be evaluated via scientific (biochemical) testing. Your task will be to present the claim(s) clearly, as well as sources either supporting or refuting this claim, and evaluate which of these sources is most reliable. There is no need to come to a firm conclusion if the literature is conflicted, but you may weigh in with a personal opinion on which side seems to have better evidence if you wish. A well-done paper will make extensive use of citations, with a focus on the biochemistry involved in the claim.

Marking Scheme:

Claim is presented clearly, in a form that allows evaluation, with sources clearly cited for original claim	/5
Sources are used to support <u>all</u> statements of fact throughout paper	/5
Sources are used in a way that reflects their reliability (within reason), with this being explicitly discussed	/10
Overall logical structure and flow, allowing the reader to easily follow from one thought to another	/10
Biochemical focus	/10
References: citation style is consistent, clear, and well-presented	/3
Spelling, grammar, punctuation	/2
Total	/45

Citations should be in CSE Harvard style (note that this is not the same as Harvard Law style), also known as Canadian Journal of Botany standard. It is a modified APA format, specific to communication in the sciences. Some examples are included on the next page. Keep in mind that though a references section is required, it does not count toward the 3-4 pages, and no footnotes please. One important concept is that direct quotations are not permitted in scientific writing; read the paper, put it into your own words without plagiarism, and then cite the original authors of the idea, data, or concept.

Please ensure that your paper is 1.5 spaced to allow for marking comments and in an easy-to-read font (Arial or Times New Roman 12pt are simplest).

Some sample claims that could serve as topics:

- Vitamin C megadosing can cure/reduce the effects of cancer
- Gluten sensitivity does/does not exist
- A vegetarian diet does not provide all essential nutrients

Some example citations:

One author:

The sky is blue (Smith, 1996).

Two references, and two authors:

Many plants perform photosynthesis (Hornell, 1987; Artem and Matheos, 2003).

Two possible styles of citation, each with more than 2 authors:

Gravity is a theory that states that objects attract one another dependent on their respective masses (Dang *et al.* 2014).

or

Dang *et al.* (2014) demonstrated that objects attract one another dependent on their respective masses, solidifying the theory of gravity.

No authors available – Either name the organization, or the handbook name if applicable:

Bubonic plague is caused by a bacteria, *Yersinia pestis*. (CDC, 2010)

Some reference style notes:

The general format for an article is as follows:

Author(s)' last name(s), initials. Year. Title of paper. Journal of publication, pages.

Example:

Hornell, E. 1987. A comparison of the catalytic rates of peptidases. Canadian Journal of Zoology, 985-989.

Note that ALL authors must be listed in the references section. “*et al.*” is not appropriate

Books:

Author(s)' last name(s), initials. Year. Title of book. Publishing company, city of publication, pages used [note: these are all pages used by your paper, listed however is simplest]

Example:

Pojar, J., and MacKinnon, A. 2004. Plants of the Pacific Northwest. Lone Pine Publishing, Vancouver, BC, Canada. 44, 49, 451-483.

Websites:

Author(s)' last name(s), initials. Year. Title [ie: title of that article, or if missing, header of the website]. Available from: URL, date accessed.

Example:

Serano, J. 2015. How to write a “political correctness run amok” article. Available from: <https://medium.com/@juliaserano/how-to-write-a-political-correctness-run-amok-article-9b828d443018#.jd8yxtvxn> [Accessed: April 24, 2016]

****Please note that many websites will be missing some of the required information. Record everything that is made available (check thoroughly!), and use the following if needed:**

No author available

n.d. (means “no date”, for articles or websites without a date given)

Course notes:

Presenter last name, initials. Year. Name of lecture or topic as introduced by the presenter. Name of course, name and location of school, date presented.

Example:

Eliot, B. 2016. Mechanisms of Drug Action. Lecture notes, Biochemistry BMS 211 lecture 12, Pacific Rim College, Victoria BC, December 5, 2016.