

Biology Quarter 2 Research Paper

Due: January 8/9, 2008 (Your double)

Your paper must be turned in to turnitin.com before you hand in the hard copy. Papers must be submitted before you come to school on January 8/9. Your paper will not be graded unless it has been submitted to <http://turnitin.com/>

Assemble and staple your paper in the following order: paper score sheet, title page, research paper, works cited page, your zoo observation notes and any pictures, tables, charts and diagrams that you have found or constructed and lastly, the Research Paper Assignment sheet (this page).

Go to my website print and attach paper score sheet to front of project.

Attach this page to the back of your project.

Paper Topic: Choose an animal from the zoo list.

No duplicates, only one group from my biology classes may research a specific organism. Your field observations while at the zoo can be a team effort, BUT THE RESEARCH AND WRITING MUST BE YOUR INDIVIDUAL EFFORT. **BE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THIS REQUIREMENT!**

Important Guidelines to follow:

All papers must be double-spaced type and proofread. Grammar and spelling do count. The margins are to be a maximum of one inch and the font is either Helvetica or times 12-point. The minimum length is three FULL pages long and the maximum is seven FULL pages. These guidelines for length do not include the title page, works cited, or any pictures/charts (note: pictures/charts are not required, they are optional). You are to print up two 2) copies, one you will keep as a back up in case I lose your first.

Your paper must start with a separate cover page with the following information. **Your title, full name, the date, your teacher's name, and your class section.**

You must credit all information that is not yours. **I would expect most paragraphs to have 1-3 parenthetical in-text citations.** In-text parenthetical citations are used to document all external sources used within your paper (unless the material cited is considered general knowledge). The parenthetical citations direct readers to the full bibliographic citations listed in the WORKS CITED page, located at the end of your paper. In most cases, the parenthetical citations include the author's last name and the specific page number (many urls have no authors/page numbers the link below describes this and other examples) for the information cited. NOTE: the basic rules are the same for both print and electronic sources. A very good link for most examples is found at http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/p04_c08_s1.html. This link is also found on my website. Once at the site, you can quickly locate different examples by using the box that looks like the one shown below.

MLA in-text citations



This requirement for in-text citations includes: direct quotes, paraphrasing, and using diagrams or charts from another source. If you do not give credit to the original source, I will consider it plagiarism! **UNLESS IT IS A DIRECT QUOTE, YOU MAY NOT CUT AND PASTE, AND EVEN THEN YOUR PAPER SHOULD HAVE VERY FEW DIRECT QUOTES.** If you're unsure, ASK!

You must also include a WORKS CITED page at the end of your paper- this is not a bibliography, again the mechanics of constructing a works cited page in the MLA style is also shown at http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/p04_c08_s2.html. This link is also found on my website. Once at the site, you can quickly locate different examples by using the box that looks like the one shown below.

MLA works cited entries

on-line web documents, generally use the following, Author's name (if available) (last name first). Document title. Date of Internet publication. Date of access <URL>. Please use the above link to find the best fit for your needs.

You must use at least three (3) sources that are not more than five years old. These required sources cannot be REFERENCE/ENCYCLOPEDIAS.

You may of course, use encyclopedias/reference material, and you may use sources that are older than 5 years but **these do not count as a required source**. You may use Gale, books, magazines, newspapers, etc. to find your required sources. If you use websites be VERY careful that they are "legitimate and unbiased". Government and universities links are probably the safest bet.

There are a wide variety of libraries in this area of which to use to your advantage: Parker library, USD, UCSD, SDSU, public libraries, community colleges, and the San Diego Zoological Association. You may also use information from personal interviews. Contact the appropriate departments at the university or institution where you would like to speak with someone. Be polite and explain your assignment, most people will be glad to help. For this paper, you will need to do outside research as well as take advantage of our zoo field trip to research your animal. The purpose of this paper is to allow you to learn about a complex organism, as well as investigate the success of animals in captivity. Try this url: <http://www.sandiegozoo.org/animalbytes/index.html>

Main Topics you are to answer (you may not find every subtopic for your animal):

Main topic- Your organism: subtopics- scientific name (including taxons), evolutionary history/related organisms (if you have trouble finding evolutionary history for your specific organism search for information on its Genus, if not successful then try its Family. google (your organism Family and the words "evolved from"), physical description, behavioral patterns, geographic distribution/population numbers, define endangered species vs. extinct species, is your animal endangered (if so, how did it get to be this status), reproductive success, nutrition/diet, position in a food web, type of organisms that would be directly and indirectly affected if your organism was extinct, adaptations the organism evolved to fit its niche, any migration patterns. Try this url:

<http://www.sandiegozoo.org/animalbytes/index.html>

Main Topic- Zoo: subtopics- give some background on how zoos are organized, how they work, compare and contrast original goals/reasons for establishing "zoos" to today's zoo's goals/mission statements, specifically – what are the goals/mission statement for the SD Zoo? Try these urls: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zoo> and

<http://www.sandiegozoo.org/disclaimers/aboutus.html>

Main Topic- Compare and contrast the following between your animal's NATURAL habitat and its ZOOLOGICAL habitat: subtopics- climate and habitat description, daily behavioral patterns, reproductive characteristics, care of offspring, life span, health challenges, climate, feeding behavior, diet, size of heard/flock/group etc.,

estimated daily range vs. size of zoo enclosure. Do you think your animal in the zoo could successfully survive in a natural/wild habitat if it was released – why or why not?

Main Topic- Research: current research on your animal and its importance.

While you are the zoo, BE SURE TO TAKE WONDERFULLY DESCRIPTIVE NOTES OF THE HABITAT (WHETHER OR NOT THE ANIMAL IS ACTIVE/ON DISPLAY) DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS INSIDE, DRAW IT LABEL THE LOCATION OF TREES, LARGE BOULDERS, FEEDING AREAS, ETC. DOCUMENT LOCATION OF ANIMALS WITHIN THE HABITAT, DESCRIBE HOW OFTEN IT MOVES/INTERACTS WITH OTHERS/SLEEPS... WHATEVER. Take THOROUGH notes/observations (even take/draw pictures!) on as many of these topics as you can (it will vary for each animal): Information about this animal at the zoo: how long has it been there, how many are on display (males or females – if you can tell), what are its living conditions, what features of their natural habitat have been duplicated in the exhibit, what are they fed, how often are they fed – does this fulfill their natural diet, are they better off physically (from diet and medical needs) living in a zoo, do you think their lifespan is longer/shorter by being a zoo, do other animals share the enclosure with your animal – which ones and would these animal normally share their habitat with them if in the wild, is the size of the exhibit conducive to the type of activity that is characteristic of that animal, why is the animal at the zoo – reproductive purposes, endangered, for show, medical research? You may even want to interview some of the workers about how often are the displays cleaned, how often is the animal fed, care for the animal, etc.?