

Chemistry 100 Research Project Guidelines

The purpose of this research project is to help you learn to explore the information available in books, scientific periodicals, and the Internet, on a topic in chemistry of interest to the general public. **You are required to deliver an oral presentation on a topic that must be approved by the instructor.** You will be expected to deliver your oral presentation using visual slides (using PowerPoint, for example). A list of topics is provided in the Modules menu on Canvas.

You will select a topic for your project from the list provided. Only one student may sign up for a given topic. You will need to research the topic using library sources and Internet sources.

You will be required to submit a works cited page with at least 6 references. At least one peer-reviewed scientific journal article and two internet sources must be photocopied, handed in, and cited as a reference in your paper. You need to include one book reference as well. Articles in magazines such as Times or Newsweek count as references, but do not count as scientific articles.

Check with me first if you are concerned about the appropriateness of an article for this report. If you quote from any source, you must provide a reference; plagiarism should be avoided and may result in a zero for the paper. **Do not use Wikipedia or any encyclopedia as a primary reference,** although they may provide a good starting point for your topic.

Consider your specific topic before deciding how to approach it. If your topic describes a specific problem and/or its solution, make sure you include any new approaches or solutions to the problem in your presentation. **Conclude your presentation with a brief summary and your personal comments about the solutions proposed.** If your topic is more informative in nature, include a brief background on your topic and summarize the important issues your articles addresses regarding the topic.

In addition, you should; address the following questions where appropriate:

- Do you agree or disagree with the author?
- How credible are the articles?
- Have you found other data that does not support the authors' conclusions?
- Are the authors or you basing your opinions on scientific facts, or value judgments?

Many of the topics are controversial and can be interpreted or argued more than one way. In those cases, you should present arguments from both sides and explain why you believe one side makes more sense than the other. Usually the authors of an article provide the reader with their own interpretation of the data and include support for their interpretation. They often address other points of view as well. You may decide to take an opposing position in response to your articles.

List of References for the Works Cited Page

You are responsible for including the following sources in works cited page:

- 1) At least one book (or e-Book) that relates to the topic.
- 2) One relevant **scientific** journal article that was published within the last three years. Most scientific journals have undergone what is known as peer review. Please keep in mind and

make the distinction between scientific journal articles and magazine articles. For example, the *Ladies Home Journal* is not a peer reviewed, scientific journal and is unacceptable for use in this research project as a journal article. If there is an article that is relevant to your topic in a magazine, you may include it in the bibliography; however, it does not count as a journal article.

- 3) At least two Internet-based articles pertaining to the selected topic.
- 4) You will need at least 2 more references of any type (magazines, newspapers, etc., or extra sources from 1-3 above)

Any exceptions to these policies must be authorized by the instructor **before you submit your works cited page.

Each student is required to submit the following materials on the dates listed

Monday, April 10:

Submit a "Works Cited" including all of the required sources listed above using MLA format (you **MUST** include links to **ALL** sources so they are easily accessible). If you are not sure about citing using MLA, check with the writing center or the library.

Monday, April 17:

Submit a typewritten copy of the outline for your oral presentation that has been reviewed by the writing center. You must also submit verification from the Writing Center for review of your outline. The purpose of the outline is to aid you in developing your thesis and help organize your thoughts in a logical order. The Writing Center will help you determine if your outline represents an ordered overview of your report.

****Making an Appointment with the Writing Center**

You can visit the Academic Support Center (ASC) website at asc.fullcoll.edu to log in to **ASC Online Tutoring**. The ASC Online Tutoring allows you to schedule your own tutoring appointments, upload assignments, and receive tutoring via Zoom. On the ASC's homepage, you can find both instructions and videos to learn about ASC Online Tutoring and how to navigate the tutoring schedule to book your appointments.

Either Monday, April 24, or Wednesday, April 26

Submit your visual slides on the day you present (to be determined).

Grading Criteria

Outline	10 points
Writing center verification form	10 points
Works cited page	10 points
Visual presentation slides	20 points
<u>Oral presentation</u>	<u>50 points</u>
Total	100 points