# Biotechnology Blog Paper

Throughout the semester you have been working to read and understand a scientific journal article. Now it's time to write about it! For this paper, you will identify a major question, conflict or concern (a "QCC") within your assigned topic and write a focused and engaging blog-style paper explaining how your chosen article attempts to address this question.

**What is a blog, and why should you learn how to write one?**

Over the past decade, blogs have become increasingly popular sources for science news and analysis because so many of them are written for an "inexpert audience"- non-scientist, everyday folks who are interested in learning more about science! While journal articles are one of the main ways that scientists share their research, they are intended to be read by other scientists and are not written for a general audience. But because so much of research funding comes from Federal tax dollars (like the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation) the general public are entitled to hear about the results, and we have a responsibility as scientists to share them! Learning to communicate about science or any complicated topic in a clear and engaging way will have enormous benefits for your future career, whether that career is in science, education, healthcare, politics, business, etc.

**Guidelines:**

1. Your paper should be ~2 pages, paragraph format only, double-spaced, 12 pt font.
2. Review your Biotech Blog Paper worksheet assignments that you've completed throughout this semester, and re-read your scientific journal article again. These assignments were designed to help you understand the paper and summarize each section individually. Your goal with this blog paper will be to give a high-level summary of the whole paper, so use what you've done so far as a starting point.
3. Develop a 'QCC'- this is a question, conflict, or concern to focus your paper around**.**
    - For example, if my assigned topic was "Covid-19" and I chose a paper that looked at the sequence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, I might formulate a question such as, "should we be concerned about the virus mutating?"
4. Write in "Blog Style". A few tips:

[This file is supplemental material to Tremaglio and Kraczkowski, *In layman's terms: Teaching students to understand the scientific literature through blog-style writing assignments*, prompt 8.1 (2024), doi: 10.31719/pjaw.v8i1.141]

- Think of this as almost investigative reporting work
    - Who did the research? What did they do? Why did they do it? How did they do it?
- Engage the reader
    - Why should they care about this topic? How might it help them?
- Avoid listing the information that was in the journal article
    - Interpret, hit the reader with key important information and explain what it means.
- Inform your audience
    - You should incorporate other sources of information to clarify the knowledge introduced because this is intended for a non-expert audience

5. No quotations- put everything in your own words by paraphrasing and properly cite the sources in-text and with a reference list.
6. In addition to citing your journal article, you should also be using and citing your textbook (additional *academic* references are welcome).
    - If you incorporate additional information, it should be academic sources only (textbooks, journal articles, agency reports…) DO NOT cite popular websites or Wikipedia (although you are welcome to look these up to help you understand the topic).
7. Have a look at these science blog posts for some inspiration:
    - https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/phenomena/2014/09/02/to-protect-an-endangered-snake-first-protect-a-venomous-one/
    - https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/deadly-spread-of-some-cancers-may-be-driven-by-a-common-mouth-microbe/
    - https://www.wired.com/2014/02/poisonous-chocolate/
    - https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/11/new-genetic-tools-will-deliver-improved-farmed-fish-oysters-and-shrimp-here-s-what

**EXTRA CREDIT!!**

Many science bloggers include fun little drawings or comics, or even memes, to illustrate the concepts they are presenting. Create a science meme (check out https://imgflip.com/memegenerator) or include your own piece of science art to accompany your piece and earn up to 3 extra credit points on your paper! Keep it relevant to the topic and professional, please!

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