

SADDLEBACK COLLEGE
BIOLOGY 20 – INTRODUCTION TO BIOLOGY
ARTICLE CRITIQUE

You will be required to read one journal article of your interest, which relates to one of the general areas of our course content. You will write your reaction and give an analysis of the biological topics discussed in the article.

Ground rules: **GET THE ARTICLE APPROVED BEFORE YOU BEGIN! NON-APPROVED ARTICLES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!**

- Must be a topic related to biology that we will be covering this semester.
- Article must have been published between January 1998 and the present.
- The article **must be from a scientific journal** (Nature, Scientific American, Amer. Sci., National Wildlife, etc.)
 - Newspaper articles, Newsweek, Time Magazine Men's Journal and Omni are **not appropriate!** You can use these to **only** get an idea of a topic, then locate the topic in a more scientific journal.
- The article must be at least two pages in length (not including pictures or advertisements).
- The paper **MUST be TYPED!** No exceptions – there are computers for you use on campus.
- A photocopy of the article.
- Most good critiques are 1 1/2 to 2 pages in length.

You must include the following information in your report:

1. Bibliographical information: This should be written like a journal reference at the beginning of your critique.
NOTE: This does not have to be on a separate page.

Example: Journals with one author:

Thiollay, J.M. 1992. Influence of selective logging on bird species diversity in a Guianan rain forest. Conservation Biology 6:47-63.

Note that the above shows: Last name – comma – first initial – period – second initial – period – year – period – title of article – period – name of journal – volume of journal – colon page numbers of the article within the volume – period.

Example: Journal with three or more authors:

Kinner, J.E., M.L. Onus and R. N. Bromilow. 1988. Fox control and rock-wallaby population dynamics. Australian Wildlife Research 15:435-450.

Note that the above shows: Last name – comma – first initial – period – second initial – period – comma – first initial of second author – period – second initial of second author – period – last name of second author – comma – and – first initial of third author – period – second initial of third author – period – last name of third author – period – year – period – title of article – period – name of journal – volume of journal – colon page numbers of the article within the volume – period.

Example: Journal with two authors:

Clayton, G.A. and A. Robertson. 1955. Mutation and quantitative variation. Amer. Natur. 89:151-158.

Note: that the above shows: Last name – comma – first initial – period – second initial – period – comma – and – first initial of second author – period – second initial of second author – period – last name of second author – period – year – period – title of article – period – name of journal – volume of journal – colon page numbers of the article within the volume – period.

2. The critique will consist of 4 parts:
 - a. A summary of the article **in your own words**. Do NOT just copy sentences from the article! Tell me “What was it about?” (5 points)
 - b. What was good about the presentation? Don't just write that it was easy to read, had good figures, etc. tell me what was good about the author(s) ideas, research and overall take home message (5 points).
 - c. What needed to be improved? What would you have done differently? Again, do not tell me that it had many big scientific jargon, could have been more clearly written for the layman, had pictures, etc (5 points).
 - d. What did you learn that you did not know before? What did it make you think about? How useful is this information to you and others as it pertains to your everyday life now or in the future? **This is the most important part of your report** (10 points).

*****I will subtract 3 points a day for every day it is late, including days we do not meet (weekends).*****

Due Date: