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:

- Must be a topic related to biology in some form.
- Article must have been published between January 1998 and the present.
- The article must be from a PEER REVIEWED scientific journal (Nature, Science, J. Biogeography, Ecology, JAMA, Physiological Zoology, J. of Plant Physiology, etc.)
  - Newsweek, Time Magazine, Omni and newspapers are not appropriate! You can use these only to 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).
  - You can not do a critique of a commentary, review or summary article (Science News – pull original)
- A photocopy of the article.
- Have the topic approved before you begin -  Non-approved articles will not be accepted nor will non-peer reviewed articles!
- The paper MUST be TYPED!

You must include the following information in your report:

1. Bibliographical information: This should be written like a journal reference (see below):
   
   **Example:** Journals with one author:
   
   Note that the above shows: Last name – comma – first initial – period – second initial – period – date – period – title of article – period – name of journal – volume of journal – colon – page numbers of the article within the volume – period.

   **Example:** Journals with three or more authors:
   

2. The critique portion will consist of 4 parts:
   a. Summarize of the article in your own words. (What was it about? Nature of the study?) (5 points)
   b. What was good about the presentation? Don’t write that it was easy to read, had good figures, etc. Tell me what was good about the author(s) ideas, research protocol, etc. (4 points)
   c. What needed to be improved? What did they do incorrectly or could have improved upon? What would you have done differently? (4 points)
   d. What did you learn that you did not know before? What did it make you think about? How would any of this apply to everyday life? This is the most important part of your critique. (7 points)

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