

## Research Paper Assignment

Your paper will be on a particular treatment (or treatments) of a disease or condition that you choose. (7-10 pages)

### prompt

Your roommate (or anyone else) has disease / condition X and is considering treatment Y. Advise. [ The idea of the paper is to commit to a suggestion based on what you've read about the disease and treatment. Would you take it? Would you advise someone else to take it? ]

- You choose X (the disease or condition) and Y (the treatment)
- You should give some background into the problem. Not a complete history of the disease, but rather why people started treating disease X with treatment Y. Maybe a little background into what other treatments have been used before treatment Y came about.
- You should have a start to your research (given your newspaper article and the medical article.) You might use the Web of Science to find out what has happened since your article was published. One way to do this is to find articles that have cited your original article.
- You will still have a thesis statement that you are arguing. However, for this paper, the thesis statement is the easy part. Your thesis may state, for example, Treatment Y is a significant advance in medicine, and I would advise its use. Or Treatment Y has some promising results, but the research to this point is inconclusive in terms of broad medical use.
- The argument / evidence for this paper will be the hard part. You will be using multiple articles/studies to argue your point.
  - Use the course readings to make points about why some aspects of studies are better than others (observational vs. experiment; sample size; ethics; etc.)
  - You should also discuss how the study is portrayed or summarized by the media: what did the media emphasize? what did they leave out?
- You must use at least 5 references. 2 of them must be from peer reviewed medical or biological journals.
- Your topic should be your thesis statement and a few other pertinent pieces of information (whatever you think you need to say to convey what topic you'll be discussing.)

- If you want to use a web source, you must email me with a reason why the information on the website cant be found elsewhere. If you have a good reason (and the website is legitimate), I will probably approve the use of the website as a source.
- Your bibliography should be annotated. That means, for each reference, you need to write 1-4 sentences describing the article.

**dates**

- Topic & Annotated Bibliography (due Tuesday 11/16/10)
- First complete version (due Tuesday 11/23/10)
- Revised paper (due Tuesday 12/7/10)