**Marine Environmental Research Paper**

McMillan VE, Arnold R, Priore CF. 2012. Writing Papers in the Biological Sciences. 5th ed. New York: Bedford/St. Martin’s.

* Choose a topic dealing with an aspect of marine research that interests you
* Research articles, books dealing with that topic
  + All though it is useful and sometimes important to have historical perspectives (especially when dealing with classic experiments), it is important that the majority of our references are current (for this, I will say current is less than 5 years)
  + Make sure majority of your sources are *primary* sources
* Organize thoughts, main ideas, key research dealing with your topic
* Title – be specific and informative but concise
* Title Page
  + All centered: Title, *double space*, your name, *double space*, Immunology and Date of paper
* Abstract
  + States the purpose and scope of paper, general overview
  + Deals with major points that will be discussed in more detail and ends with summarizing important conclusions
  + For this paper, let’s say ~250 words
* Introduction
  + Starts broad, this is where you explain the topic/problem
  + Include historical information/data
  + Ends with very specific statement(s) of what you will be discussing
* Discussion Section
  + This is where you discuss what was found in the literature
  + Be organized, be consistent on how you are presenting the information
  + For this research paper, I would also like for you to include discussion on some of the techniques used for the research. You could even compare research methods presented in one journal article to those presented in another that are looking at the same variable.
  + Be sure to weave all of your information from your different sources together, make sure there is flow.
  + This section will be the bulk of the paper
* Conclusion/Summary
  + Consolidates the patterns and arguments you have discussed in the body of the paper
  + What’s next? Where does the research need to go?
* Literature Cited
  + CSE format
  + Be sure to site properly throughout your text
    - DO NOT copy word-for-word from a source, do not plagiarize!!!!
    - Re-write in your own words
    - When you are taking a thought from one source and are about to switch to a thought from another source, that is where you would include a citation (author year)
* Appendix
  + You may need to include an appendix – maybe if you want to include a table or graphs of some sort
  + Table – label on top
  + Figure (picture, graph) – label at bottom

**IMPORTANT: When turning in final draft of your paper:**

* Paper should be practically completed!!! A rough draft is to be reviewed to make corrections/suggestions
  + You will have points taken off your final paper if:
    - If there are sections missing or not completed
    - If citations are not correct
    - If scientific names are not typed properly (italicized, example: *Homo sapiens*)
    - If there are misspelled words that could be easily corrected with spell check
    - If there is any cutting/pasting

Any of these mistakes could make the final grade on the paper 1 or 2 letter grades lower despite the quality of your final paper!!!!!!!