There are three goals for the scientific writing assignments in this course:

* Provide an opportunity for you to learn about a topic of your own choosing.
* Provide you with practice and constructive criticism for your skills in written composition, organization, and clarity.
* Provide you with practice and constructive criticism for your skills in grammar, sentence construction, and syntax.

We will have three writing assignments (papers) during the semester, and all papers follow the same format: three to four pages long, typed, double-spaced, and in 12 point font with one-inch page margins. Each paper has its own specific topic, guidelines, and point value (see below).

**General Guidelines for Scientific Writing**

**1. Latin genus (capitalized) and species (lower case) names are always italicized. The first time a plant or other organism is mentioned, use the common name followed by the Latin name in parentheses. Thereafter, use the common name only.**

**Example: Corn (*Zea mays*) is one of the three major cereal crops grown around** the world.

2 Do not use personal pronouns. You are encouraged to present a balanced treatment of all sides of an issue, but do not express your personal opinions. Published opinions from refereed sources may be included, but must be cited.

3. Information that is common knowledge does not need a citation. However, facts, figures, and other information that comes from a published source must always be followed by a citation.

Example: The rubber tree (*Hevea brasiliensis*) is the only source of rubber in world production. Mature rubber trees produce eight to twelve pounds of rubber from each harvest (Gomez, 1983).

4. All citations will follow the CSE/CBE Name-Year format. See <http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/DocCSE_NameYear.html> for more information and examples.

Your Name

BIOB 110CS Paper Number (1, 2, or 3)

Date

Title

The first paragraph includes an introduction and general information about the topic. Include the genus and species names (in italics, in parentheses) at the first mention of a plant name. Be sure to address each of the required headings and items listed in the topic assignment for each paper. Please remember to carefully check your grammar, sentence construction, and logical organization of the material. Proofreading is very important.

The second and subsequent paragraphs should contain related information as directed in the topic assignment. Information *in your own words* from a book chapter about resistance to glyphosate would be followed by a citation like this (Dyer, 1996).

References

The text is followed by at least three alphabetized references from a periodical, journal, news release, book chapter, thesis, or technical report. Use the CSE Name-Year reference format exactly as shown in the website given above. Please note that each paper has different requirements for the number and kind of references you may use.

**Paper 3 Topic and Instructions**

GM crop varieties have made an enormous impact on US agriculture, and many CRISPR (gene edited) crops are now in the pipeline. Describe a crop species with a GM or CRISPR trait *other than herbicide resistance or insect resistance (Bt trait)*. The crop may be already in commercial production or in the testing phase. Include common and Latin names of the crop and any special growing conditions used for production. Then describe the novel trait, the gene(s) and their original source organism, and how the new gene confers the desired trait. Next, discuss the economic costs and benefits of this technology by comparing it to alternatives or other, non-GM sources of the new trait. Finally, briefly discuss the pros and cons of this technology, including possible ecological or societal impacts.

The **four** references for Paper 3 must be from a refereed periodical or journal, book chapter, thesis, or technical report. Do not cite the BIOB 110CS Study Guide. You may **not** use a non-journal website or encyclopedia as references.

Grading Criteria

Content \_\_\_\_/25

Assignment rules followed

Crop and trait description

New agronomic practices

Genes, source, mechanism for new trait

Economic costs and benefits

Pros and cons, societal impacts

References \_\_\_/5

In text

Works Cited

Composition \_\_\_/20

Grammar

Syntax

Coherence

Final Score \_\_\_/50