Writing Emphasis for GEOS170C

Key concepts:
- Scientific writing and the peer review process.
- Finding resources in the library and on the internet [link].
- Plagiarism is never acceptable.

Scientific Writing

Publication of research in scholarly, peer-reviewed publications is the basis of our scientific method and professional success. ("publish or perish") A "jury" of experts (reviewers) in the field reads each manuscript and recommends its acceptance or rejection for publication, to the editor of the journal.

Nonetheless, published research is sometimes false. When this is discovered, the scientist responsible is subject to professional sanctions (firing) and civil judgments (jail).

The primary reasons for these actions are falsifying data and self-plagiarism.
- biased reviews of papers or grant proposals
- bias created by business funding
- changing collected data
- making-up data, without any research
- stealing someone else’s data or text
- submitting a paper containing text copied from your-own previous paper, or publishing the same text in a different language.

Additional "misconduct" topics may be acceptable (Pseudoscience & "Hollywood Science [example]"), with previous written (email OK) permission of Prof. Davis.

Writing the paper

Write a 2-page paper to be submitted to the D2L dropbox. Use Times or Times New Roman font, 12 point, double-spaced with 1 inch margins. Any figures must be included on separate sheets at the end of the paper and do not count in the page limit. The paper must include a heading, an Introduction, a Body and a Conclusion. The paper must contain at least one citation in the text and be followed by a reference at the end of the paper. The references must be in the GEOS170C format (see p. 4).

Introduction Create a thesis statement - a sentence that basically sums up the topic of the paper. Include the history of the topic and its importance. Briefly explain how the rest of the paper will support your topic.

Body The body is the part of the paper where you develop and expand on your topic. It is the main section of the paper in which you present arguments that support your thesis statement. You should have three or four main points which support your thesis statement, and each point should be a detailed, separate paragraph.
Conclusion  The conclusion reiterates the topic of the paper and briefly sums up the body of the paper. The conclusion is where you state the outcomes of your research.

Citations in the Text

Always cite direct quotations and ideas that are not originally yours. Word-for-word quotes must be in quotation marks. Otherwise, you are plagiarizing and this is considered cheating. Do not include an entire paragraph in quotation. Citations must appear immediately after the quoted material and refer to a full reference in the bibliography.

Citation with one author – "One reason for the extinction of the Neanderthals is that they may have been out-competed by Homo sapiens (Tattersall, 1999)."

Two authors – "Deforestation is having a significant impact on biodiversity in Lake Tanganyika (Cohen and Jones, 1992)."

Three or more authors – "African megadroughts forever altered human evolution (Cohen et al., 2007)."

GEOS170C Format for References in the “Works Cited”

Your paper should end with “Works Cited”, where you provide the full reference for all the papers, books, and other materials you used when writing your paper. References are listed in alphabetical order by the first author. Examples of the correct format for different types of reference material are shown below, and you may also want to look at the bibliography in the workbook. (M.L.A. style is not acceptable! Use this guide carefully!)

Below is an detailed illustration of the general GEOS170C format. Note the punctuation and placement of initials after the authors’ names, etc. Every comma, colon and capitalization has to be right. Note the use of italics.

The basic format is

Author(s) in the order shown on the publication, Last name, First initial...
Date original publication’s year, followed by a period
Title italics if a book, not-italics otherwise
Publisher replaced by journal title if a scientific article

Encyclopedias (including Wikipedia) are not acceptable as references.
Book (italics for book title) –


Journal article (italics for journal name) –


Article published online –

Follow the "journal article" format, above, and also include the URL, because journals may correct mistakes in the online article and they do not always make that obvious.


Web site –

Web pages typically don’t include all the information found in books and journal articles, making them potentially a less reliable source of information. Furthermore, web pages are frequently taken offline making their content impossible to check. Web references that are not electronic copies of published (paper) journal articles should contain the same information (if included!)

Author(s) in the order shown on the web page, Last name, First initial...

Date moved to the end of the reference as “last updated”

Title the largest font at the top of the page, usually; not-italics

Publisher replaced by URL, followed by: last updated, date viewed


Additional reference examples (for example: dissertations, chapters in book) are listed under “Bibliography” at the bottom of the class schedule.

Example references & citations:

**Plagiarism:**

“Plagiarism” means representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own.” (ABOR)

Everything submitted in GEOS170C must be your own original work. Under no circumstances can you submit a paper or any part of a paper that has been submitted by you or anyone else *in any other class, or in previous semesters of this class*, anywhere, for any other reason. Your paper must have been written solely for this class. Anything else will be considered cheating.

DO NOT cut-and-paste text from the internet or any other source into your term paper without proper quotation and citation. Otherwise, submit only your own words. For GEOS170C the **10-word rule** applies. Your paper cannot have 10 words or more in sequence, without quotation marks and citation, which occur in the same sequence in any other written document. To test this, put your 10 words, in quotations, in the search window of Google or other search engine. If a word-for-word match is found, you must put the words in quotation marks followed by a citation, in your paper. Furthermore, any two sequences containing **18 words or more**, separated by three or less words, that match previously written words will be considered plagiarism, unless the copied words are in quotations followed by a citation.

You must submit your paper to the **D2L Dropbox** before the due date posted in the class schedule. Also read the class syllabus regarding “plagiarism.”

If your submit your term paper multiple times, so that the TurnItIn plagiarism report is “100%” then you must completely rewrite your term paper within 10 days, so that it does not overlap with your original paper.

**Rubric**

**SCIENTIFIC CONTENT** (add up to max 30 points)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>5 pt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Description of the scientific research involved</td>
<td>10 pt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description of misconduct, including evidence</td>
<td>10 pt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Results of misconduct | 5 pt | Sub Total ____/30

**WRITING** (add up to max 20 points)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grammar, punctuation, spelling, homonyms, confusing pairs</th>
<th>5 pt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organization: Title, introduction, body, conclusion, works-cited</td>
<td>5 pt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentence structure: fragments, run-ons, incorrect word usage</td>
<td>5 pt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Paragraph construction (topic sent., 1 idea per para., para.cohesion) | 5 pt | Sub Total ____/20

**TOTAL ____/50**