Chem 002 SP10 – Formal Report / Journal Synopsis

Paper over *Reports* Article:

Bray, P. Sargent & Ken B. Anderson. "Identification of Carboniferous (320 Million Years Old) Class Ic Amber." 2009. Science 326: 132-134.

Also please read the *Perspectives* article, which describes both this paper and related work in this field--good background information! [Grimaldi, David. "Pushing Back Amber Production." 2009 Science 326: 51-52.]

You may use your textbook or other texts or on-line sources as reference material as you see fit. Just provide a list of references (minimum 3) at the end of your paper.

*****Copies are available electronically through the MS&T Curtis Laws Wilson Library*****

You may download FREE personal copies from here as PDFs.

How to Download:

***If you are logging in from "**off-campus**" you MUST login to the **VPN** first.

1. In Merlin, select "Jrnl, Mag, Newspaper" and type in Science then click on Search.
2. Choose "Science" twice. In the middle of the page there is a link to the ejournal:
3. Link to web version: MST has: v.1(1880)-3(1882).
4. In the middle of the page, choose the link: http://www.sciencemag.org/
5. Choose the button for previous issues, then choose the October 2, 2009 edition.

DUE DATES: March 1-4, 2010 (IN CLASS)

A 3-5 PAGE *TYPED* SYNOPSIS (Summary + Analysis) DISCUSSING THE ARTICLE.

****START NOW! THIS IS NOT SOMETHING THAT CAN BE DONE IN AN HOUR OR TWO*** ON THE EVENING BEFORE CLASS!!!

How to Review an Article:

This is a challenging assignment. We suggest the following procedure:

1. Read the *Perspectives* article. Peruse (skim) the *Reports* article: read only the abstract and the figure captions. Stop.
2. Wait a day or two. Now Read the *Reports* article from abstract straight through to conclusions, reviewing the *Perspectives* article if needed. Stop.
3. Wait a day or two. Read the article again, this time taking notes for your synopsis. Stop.
4. Write the synopsis, referring to the article if necessary. DIRECT QUOTES MUST BE IN QUOTATION MARKS. [But, too many quotes are not appropriate. It is best to paraphrase – *Put it in your own words*.]
5. PROOFREAD YOUR SYNOPSIS--THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO REASON FOR MISSPELLED WORDS OR ERRORS IN GRAMMAR AND SYNTAX.

A Good Synopsis Should Mention (but is not limited to) The Following*:

1. Introduction/background. (*Why is this important, "cutting edge" research?*)
2. What was proposed? (*Hypothesis to be tested?*)
3. How was it tested experimentally? [*Discuss all parts of each figure briefly,*

telling what was proven and how.]

4. Conclusion. *(What does it mean and what might be done next?)*

***Note: You will be given a rubric with the breakdown of points prior to the paper being due.**

Chem 002 (SP10) – Overview of Grading for Synopsis / Formal Report

You must write your own report. Duplicate reports will be given a ZERO.

Your laboratory report will be graded on the basis of 35 points for the quality of the written report, and 65 points for the content. The overview for the grading are listed as follows:

Written Report *(35 points total)*

Clarity of Report *(35 points total)*

Format & Neatness *followed expected format, no missing pages, good order, pg. numbers* *nicely printed, good legibility, good mechanical presentation*	8 pts
Logical presentation (Organization & Coherence) *clearly stated thesis, good organization, no illogical sentences*	9 pts
Style (Ease of reading) *clear & concise, appropriate sentence style, correct use of words*	9 pts
Mechanics (Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation) *correct spelling, grammar, & punctuation*	9 pts
Total Points:	**35 pts**

Paper Content *(65 points total)*

Report Presentation *(65 points total)*

Title Page *separate cover page, unique title, includes relevant identifying information*	5 pts
Introduction *includes information about article reviewed,* *gives overview of experiment,* *explains why experiment is innovative*	10 pts
Experimental: *includes detailed overview of experiment* *to include control measures & monitoring*	15 pts
Results and discussion *discusses experimental results,* *gives an overview of author's results and discussion*	15 pts
Conclusions *gives an analysis of the article and data provided,* *provides implications of future works* *gives a definite opinion of the work* *conclusion is reasonable and supported*	15 pts
References	5 pts

provides <u>at least 3</u> listed and in proper MLA format

Total Points: **65 pts**

Total Score: **100pts**