

Biology/Women's Studies 307 Biographical Paper - 2009

Objectives:

- To become familiar with the accomplishments of women scientists and engineers (and potentially gain a new role model)
- To learn about factors that influenced the women's successes and failures
- To discover similarities in these factors among women scientists
- To learn about the history of women in science and engineering
- To relate events and cultural environment to issues discussed in class that impact numbers of women in science and engineering

Units and due dates:

The 100 point biographical paper project should be completed in the units described in detail below.

Due Date	Item
<u>October 29:</u>	topic and annotated bibliography (20 points)
<u>November 10:</u>	biographical paper (50 points)
<u>Dec. 3, 8, or 10:</u>	oral presentation based on your paper (30 points)

Content:

The biographical paper should be a typed/word-processed paper of a minimum of 10 pages double-spaced (not including the references). While there are many types of biographies, some of which recreate the historical record, the purpose of your paper should be to relate the events in the life of a woman scientist or engineer to issues known to affect the numbers of women in science. You could discuss such things as the woman's personality traits that helped her succeed, motivational factors affecting success, the effect of socioeconomic status on her success, educational opportunity effects on her career, particular types of educational institutions and practices that favored her success, the effects of family on career, strategies used by the woman in juggling family and career, roles of mentors in her life. You may choose to discuss the workplace culture or other socio-cultural impacts. If the woman is recently rediscovered you might talk about how/why her accomplishments became buried in history.

For help in writing a biography you might choose to look at some web sites such as this one: <http://www.tameri.com/write/biography.html>. Keep in mind the purpose of your biography as defined above.

What woman should I talk about? Any woman that has contributed to science, engineering, or to education of women in those fields and for whom there is biographical information available. Please don't write about the Nobel Prize winners (unless you wish to compare them with another less famous woman).

Style and Format for the Term Paper:

The paper should be a minimum of 10 double-spaced, typed pages (not including references). Please include the following:

- title page (title of paper, author, course name, date)

- introductory paragraph

 - For the sake of the reader write an introductory paragraph stating who you are writing about, when and where she lived, some of her major accomplishments and perhaps why you found her story interesting or why you decided to write about her.

- materials and methods (include this only when appropriate to your topic)

- body of the paper

 - develop the theme of your topic

 - include the type of information provided under content above

- cite literature in the text of your paper

 - cite frequently

 - put direct quotes in quotation marks

 - avoid plagiarism by restating others' ideas in your own words and then citing sources of information

- citation style

 - you will not be graded on the style of citation used but pick one style and use it throughout

 - realizing that not all are familiar with how to cite literature I

 - provide a website here with multiple examples:

 - http://www.library.cornell.edu/newhelp/res_strategy/citing/apa.html

- conclusions

- references cited

 - Due to the varied options of material to include you will also have the option of including varied references, not just biographies others have written about this woman but many of the same type of articles you may have considered for your previous term paper.

 - include only literature cited in the text of your paper

 - include at least 10 non-internet sources, preferably books and articles from professional journals (articles downloaded from journals are fine)

 - use popular press articles as needed but they will not count toward the "ten"

 - arrange them in alphabetical order

Topic and annotated bibliography.

The purpose of this assignment is to encourage researching the term paper and to make progress toward writing it. You will be graded in this section on the quality of research and the work put in to make progress toward writing.

The topic of your paper may or may not be the final title; it may be more general, but it should indicate that you have made a decision about what your paper will be about.

What is an annotated bibliography? It is a list of citations for the books, articles and other materials that you think relevant to your paper. Plus, each citation is

accompanied by several sentences that help you write your paper more effectively in the future. It is not an abstract of the article. It may include your ideas about how the article relates to other articles that you've read, for example, or notes about who the authors are or any number of things. The following website may help with ideas of what to include. It is not necessary to include evaluations of quality as part of the annotation.
<http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill28.htm>

Rough Draft

I suggest having another class member or peer read this draft before handing it in. If you would like feedback from Dr. Debinski, please let me know two weeks prior to the due date that you would like this assistance. Provide me with the paper at least one week prior to the due date so that I can give you some feedback.

Final Draft

Rewrite the rough draft taking into careful consideration the instructor's or colleague's suggestions and comments made on the rough draft.

Presentation

You should be prepared to give a ~6 minute talk highlighting some aspect of your paper. Please leave time for 1-2 questions. The talks will be timed and we will be on a tight schedule, so please practice to be sure you have good timing. At least two visual aids are required. Power Point presentations are recommended, but you must send your talk to Dr. Debinski on a CD or thumb drive at least 1 hour prior to class on the day of the presentation. One image or overhead should indicate the references used in preparing the talk. Please make the talks as interesting and enthusiastically presented as you can. Make the woman's story come alive. Use your best public speaking skills (e.g., speak from the front of the room, don't chew gum, speak loudly and clearly, don't read your talk).

How will I be evaluated on my oral presentation? You will each be evaluated by your peers and by an instructor. Peer evaluations will be totaled and averaged to calculate the percent of 15 points assigned. Instructor evaluations will also be worth 15, for a total of 30 points. Evaluations will be based on both quality of content and style.