

Biology/Women's Studies 307 Term Paper - 2009

The 100 point term paper project should be completed in the units described in detail below with their associated due dates.

Due Date	Item
<u>September 20:</u>	topic & annotated bibliography (20 points)
<u>October 6:</u>	term paper (50 points)
<u>October 13, 15, 20:</u>	oral presentation based on your term paper (30 points)

Content:

The paper should deal with such general areas as sociological, psychological, historical, biological, philosophical or educational issues of women science and engineering. This should not be a biographical paper. We have merely scratched the surface of many topics in class, so here's your opportunity to learn more about these or other topics. Your paper should go convincingly beyond what we read and talked about in class. It would be a good idea to discuss your paper ideas with Dr. Debinski early in the process. You will get feedback when you turn in your topic description and bibliography. Also try and compare notes with your discussion group members.

Some potential topics include:

- do women do science differently?
- gender related conversational styles and how they interact at work
- the impact of feminism on a STEM field or profession
- why does society view some fields as masculine/feminine?
- single sex classrooms
- gender neutrality in teaching
- teaching female friendly science
- programs that have impacted the numbers of women in science and engineering
- role of networking in professional success
- ecofeminism
- strategies for success in male-dominated work places
- gender differences in health or disease
- are there gender differences in publishing styles or rates?
- follow ups to the MIT report or to the remarks of Harvard President Summers
- media impacts on gender schemas
- defining professionalism in the workplace
- how are companies providing flexibility in the workplace?
- Historical changes in numbers of women in STEM fields and proposed reasons for the changes
- Analysis of data from the literature (instructor approval please), an example might be to model a WISE pipeline and predict outcomes from intervention plans

Thinking up your own topic is encouraged. However, please run your ideas by Dr. Debinski, either in class or by email to obtain our support for a topic before embarking on the project.

Style and Format for the Term Paper:

The paper should be at least 10 double-spaced, typed pages (not including references).

Please include the following:

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

- introductory paragraph (tell what the paper is about and why this

 - topic is interesting and important, introduce the paper's theme)

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

- body of the paper

 - develop the theme of your topic

 - show how the subject of your paper fits into the big picture of

 - women in/and science or engineering

- 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 that you didn't think

 - up on your own

- citation style

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

 - this website with multiple examples:

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

- conclusions

- references cited

 - include only literature cited in the text of your paper

 - include at least 10 non-internet sources, preferably books and articles from professional journals

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

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 making 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 term 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. Use your best public speaking skills (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 and the percent of 15 points assigned. Instructors' evaluations will also be worth 15, for a total of 30 points. Evaluations will be based on both quality of content and style.