

Medical Experience

This assignment allows you to reflect on what you learn in the course, write about a medical problem, and discuss it with your classmates.

You will write a short paper on a medical problem that you, a family member, and/or a close friend have experienced. The medical problem must relate to one of the units in this course. The due date for this assignment will depend on the topic you select and its application to the subject matter of the course (i.e., if your medical problem is a bone-related disease, then it would be assigned right after we finish the skeletal system).

After you post the paper, you must lead a discussion with your classmates, who will respond to your post with questions and provide extra information pertinent to your post. In each unit, you are also required to read the medical experience papers shared by your classmates and respond to at least 2 of them.

Your instructor will provide you with the start and end dates of the discussions.

Topic Selection

Choose a medical problem you want to write about and prepare a 'trailer' about the medical experience that you, a family member, or a close friend has/had that is relevant to one of the topics that we are studying in BIO 141 (cells and tissues, the integumentary system, the skeletal system, the muscular system, the nervous system, and the sensory system).

Here are two examples of trailers by previous students, used with permission:

- **Example Trailer 1:** *Last year, my grandmother had a group of friend's visiting. When they left, she took a nap and woke up with no muscle function in her whole right side and was unable to open her eyes. Respiratory distress came later on within the hour. The sudden onset of Guillain-Barré Syndrome which didn't allow any of her nerves to send the signals to her brain to move. She went through intense therapies, medications, and rehab to gain the strength back. I work in the Neuro Intensive Care Unit at UVA and am/was very interested in her condition as it deteriorated her so rapidly with no onset warnings. I work in the Neuro ICU at UVA Medical Center and see other patient's come in and out of our unit with Guillain-Barré and all of their results vary so drastically. I would love to look into this topic more.*
- **Example Trailer 2:** *My grandfather was a cigarette smoker, since the time he was 15 or 16 years old, and so is my dad. Most Vietnamese males are smokers. It is just like a culture thing in Vietnam. Offering a cigarette is a way of greeting, like shaking hands to start a friendly conversation, or to conduct business. After 60 pack years in smoking, my grandfather started coughing and developed chest pain. He lost a lot of weight in a few months. The coughing got worse, but he insisted that he did not have any problems, until he coughed out blood and fainted. My parents called 911 to take him to the hospital. The doctor ordered a lung scan, and found a mass in his right lung. After a complete checkup, the doctor concluded that my grandfather had advanced stage lung cancer. The tumor was inoperable. My grandfather passed*

away a few months later. I would like to find out more about this deadly disease, and its relationship to smoking.

Your Permission Statement

Sometimes your trailer for this assignment is so impressive that your team of instructors would like to use them as an example for other students or presentations to other instructors. We need your permission to do that: Would you please include a statement in your post that gives us that permission? It can be: "I permit the team of BIO 141 instructors to use a post that I may write as part of this assignment for example for future students or presentation purposes". You may copy and paste this statement into your post. Your name and any information that identifies you or anyone else in your writing will be removed. If you do not include this statement, we won't use your work.

Please note the following:

- You should pick your subject and write your trailer as early as possible. Everyone must write about a different medical problem. You will have to choose a different topic if someone already posted a similar problem in the Topic Selection forum.
 - Your instructor will respond within a few days of your post and let you know if your title is accepted and the date by which you must post your medical experience paper.
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Medical Experience Paper

This assignment is an opportunity for you to synthesize and use the information you learn in the course to educate your classmates and increase your knowledge base. You are expected to conduct some research about your topic and integrate that research into what you've learned from your text and your experience.

Here are the questions you should answer:

1. Explain, with appropriate details, the normal anatomy and physiology of the organs/structures that are affected by your chosen medical problem.
2. How is the homeostasis of the anatomical structures and physiological processes affected by the condition? Be thoughtful and thorough as you consider homeostasis.
3. Describe the signs and symptoms of the condition briefly.
4. Discuss any differential diagnoses issues related to your topic.
5. Summarize treatment options.
6. How did this medical problem impact you personally?

Your paper should be a minimum of 500 words. Please use appropriate anatomical terminology and answer the questions listed above. College-level writing is required. Make sure to cite your sources and provide a reference list following APA style. When you cite your textbook, you must include the page number.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please find the plagiarism policy in the Course Syllabus.

Plagiarism

** Plagiarism is defined in the student handbook as: "the act of appropriating passages from the work of another individual, **either word for word or in substance**, and representing them as one's own work. This includes any submission of written work other than one's own. (Student Handbook 2007-2009 NOVA (page 79). Among other things, this means that you cannot copy and paste material from any Web page without both putting it in quotation marks and citing the source.*

Medical Experience Paper - Discussion

Discussion Around Your Medical Experience Paper

When your medical experience paper is due, you should submit it to your instructor and share it with the entire class. Please facilitate the discussion on your paper to answer questions and substantively discuss classmates' comments. The discussion is a significant part of the medical experience assignment. It allows you to learn and teach others about your experience.

Discussion Around Your Classmates' Medical Experience Papers

You are required to participate in the discussions of the medical experience papers in all units, including the one in which you authored a medical experience paper.

Please write a substantive response to at least two other medical problems in EACH unit. The responses should indicate specific knowledge that you have learned. Comments like "That was very interesting" or "I never heard of this before" don't count.

Permission to use your paper and posts as examples for other students:

Sometimes your paper and discussion for the medical experience posts for Units 3, 4, 5, and 6 are so impressive that your team of instructors would like to use them as examples for other students or presentations to other instructors. We need your permission to do that: Would you please include a statement in your post that gives us that permission. It can be: *"I permit the team of BIO 141 instructors to use a post that I may write as part of this assignment as an example for future students or presentation purposes"*. You may copy and paste this statement into your post. Your name and any information that identifies you or anyone else in your writing will be removed. If you do not include this statement, then we won't use your work.

Resources

Please use your textbook as your first source but be sure to use references in addition to the course materials you have purchased for this course. Resources on your topic are easy to find.

- You may contact the Librarian for assistance if you need help with finding reliable resources or APA formatting. You can find her contact information on the course site.
- Additionally, you can use a search engine (like "google.com") to search for more information. Be sure you use credible resources. Look for government-sponsored websites ending ".gov" or university-sponsored websites ending ".edu." Wikipedia is NOT an acceptable source, nor are patient information sites. These are about 80% accurate, but they are written for patients. College-level writing is required.

Grading Rubric

Medical Experience Paper

Grading Criteria	Points
<p>Answered all of the following questions and used appropriate anatomical terminology.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain, with appropriate details, the normal anatomy and physiology of the organs/structures that are affected by your chosen medical problem. 2. How is the homeostasis of the anatomical structures and physiological processes affected by the condition? Be thoughtful and thorough as you consider homeostasis. 3. Describe the signs and symptoms of the condition briefly. 4. Discuss any differential diagnoses issues related to your topic. 5. Summarize treatment options. 6. How did this medical problem impact you personally? 	36 points
Avoided obvious grammar and spelling errors.	2
Cited sources including the textbook following APA style.	2
Total	40

Discussion Around Your Medical Experience Paper (Discussion Facilitation)

Please note: All responses and comments you posted under your paper to move the discussion forward will be graded as the facilitation of the discussion. **Please check with your instructor about the different types of postings you may be required to post here.** These points are part of the rubric for your medical experience paper. They are not included in the discussion points for each unit.

Grading Criteria	Points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Led the discussion of your own medical experience paper by answering questions, or adding information that furthers the discussion period throughout the entire discussion period and adding new information to move the discussion forward. Participated in the ongoing discussion and didn't leave the discussion until a topic has reached a conclusion. Please check with your instructor for alternate requirements. 	10
Total	10

Discussion Around Your Classmates' Medical Experience Papers (Discussion Participation)

Please note: Discussion participation refers to all of the comments and responses you posted under your classmates' papers. **You are required to do this even during the unit in which you also facilitate a discussion. However, your instructor may require alternate participation approach here. Please check with your instructor.**

Grading Criteria	Points
Active & Consistent Participation: Maintained a constant presence throughout the project, providing active and frequent participation.	3
Productive Contributions: Provided excellent content that contributed significantly to the discussion and consistently helped advance the analysis to the next level.	3
Use of Science Based Sources: Referenced at least three sources: (1) the text, with page numbers cited; (2) a patient source; (3) a science-based source.	3
College-Level Writing: Cited all sources appropriately. If the source was from the Internet, the source was linked appropriately. Avoided spelling or grammar errors. Used appropriate anatomical terminology throughout.	1
Total	10

***If you are facilitating a discussion in the meantime, please check with your instructor for alternate requirements.**