

# BIOLOGY NEWSNOTES

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rvsd. 30 Oct 1995, 2 Sept 99, 18 Sept 01, 23 Sept 03, 21 Sept 04, 17Sept07, 2Jan09  
<http://biology.clc.uc.edu/fankhauser/Classes/Newsnotes/Newsnotes.html>

Newsnotes are biological "current events." You should summarize an interesting article with a significant conclusion which you have read in addition to assigned class material. They are due several times each quarter. (See the syllabus for due dates.) Selected Newsnotes will be "published," and students whose cards are published will present them orally in class.

**APPROPRIATE TOPICS** for a newsnote may cover a wide range: ecology, energy impact, lifestyle, nutrition, medicine, disease prevention, etc. Try to pick a topic which is likely to affect you and/or your classmates *directly*.

**SOURCES** could include reputable newspapers, magazines, scientific journals, books, etc. Be sure to accurately spell scientific terms and numerical data. If you use a web source, be certain to include the entire and correct URL. In the event of duplicate topics, *preference will be given to newsnotes from printed sources.*

|   |                    |                    |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| Journal Name  | <b>INFORMATIVE</b> | Your Name & No.    |
| Vol (No.): pp.  | <b>TITLE</b>       | Due Date (on syll) |
| Date of Journal   |                    |                    |
| The text goes here. Describe how the study was performed and its results. Give critical numbers and other data. What was the most significant conclusion? |                    |                    |
| Use appropriate abbreviations, but be sure to correctly-spell the full names of chemicals, species, processes, etc. Polish your grammar as well.          |                    |                    |

**FORMAT FOR NEWSNOTES:** Submit your newsnote on a single 3x5 index card filled in with the exact header illustrated to the left.\* It should be typed *on one side only*. Use at least 10 point font size so that it is easily legible. I suggest that you type it up on a computer after first setting up the correct margins (2.5 x 4.5"). **Vertical orientation of the card occasionally favors publishing.** Print out the finished text, trim it down and paste it onto a 3x5 card. A point will be deducted for handwritten cards. I will select and reproduce the best newsnotes according to my subjective evaluation, hand them out at a subsequent class and students who submitted them will lead discussion on their topics.

**NOTE:** *No late Newsnotes will be accepted.* If you know you must miss the due date, give the card to another student to turn in for you.

**POINTS:** At least 5 points are awarded for a typed newsnote relating to biology. Points earned on Newsnotes are added to your cumulative score. All Newsnotes will be posted on the Biology Bulletin Board outside of the Biology Lecture room. Please do not remove them from the board so that the entire College community may share them.

**BONUS POINTS:** If your card is published, you earn 6 points, and if yours is the lead card, you earn 7 points. To earn these bonus points, you must also be present on Newsnote presentation day (see syllabus) and be prepared to make an oral presentation about your topic to the class.

**PREPARE YOUR SEMINAR:** Research the details of your topic including, but not limited to, background information, prepared tables of data, diagrams to illustrate the topic, meaning and etymology of the words used, and implications which might interest the class. Questions will appear on Newsnote material on subsequent tests.

\* The NEWSNOTE **HEADER** should include the following (see boxed illustration above):

**TOP LEFT:**

1. Name of the source of your information: newspaper, magazine, journal, book, etc.
2. Give the full reference: Volume # (if appropriate), full date, page, (or full URL).

**TOP RIGHT:**

1. Your name and assigned student number
2. The date that the *Newsnote* is due.

**CENTER:**

**TITLE IN CAPITAL LETTERS:** Succinctly but meaningfully state the conclusion

**OFFSET THE TEXT FROM THE HEADER:**

Insert an extra return before you begin the text. Write the summary in your best, logical English. Include correctly spelled terms, appropriate numbers, precise conclusions.