Library Assignment: Biology 41

The objectives of this lab are to prepare students to:

1. Navigate Foothill's library and online information resources
2. Use various search engines such as PubMed, InfoTrac, and Google to gather information about a microbiological topic of choice
3. Evaluate web sites for credibility, timeliness
4. Discriminate between popular literature sources, peer-reviewed scientific journal resources, and website sources of information
5. Accurately cite sources of information
6. Describe what plagiarism is, and be able to identify examples of plagiarism.
7. Synthesize information from various resources, coherently, in the student's own words

• We will meet in the lab for the quiz before going to the library.
• You MUST arrive with at least two ideas for topics (you will be asked to write them down when you arrive). Your topic can be ANYTHING having to do with microbiology that you're interested in learning more about! They MUST be in the form of a question. Each student will be required to have a unique topic (i.e. two students cannot use the same topic)
• You MUST have completed the "Plagiarism Skills Review" before you submit your library assignment
• NOTE: The time to clarify whether or not your resources are appropriate is BEFORE you turn in your paper, NOT after.
• Please use the first sentence of your summary to remind me what your question was (e.g. "I was interested in learning how Anthrax toxin works")

These are the items that you should hand in for the library assignment:

• The library assignment grade sheet
• Two abstracts from peer-reviewed scientific journals (Note: if you decide to use the whole article rather than just the abstract, that's fine! You need to turn in whatever you actually used to write your assignment)
  o Note: web-based encyclopedias are NOT journals
• Printouts from at least two separate web sites about your topic (You need to turn in whatever you actually used to write your assignment)
  o Note: InfoTrac and PubMed do NOT count as website sources – they are merely databases by which to find journal articles
• At least three typed paragraphs summarizing IN YOUR OWN WORDS what you learned in answer to your question, from the abstracts and web pages. Plagiarism will result in a grade of "0" for this assignment.
• AGAIN NOTE: The time to clarify whether or not your resources are appropriate is BEFORE you turn in your paper, NOT after.