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## BIOL 102: Introductory Biology Science Literacy Assignment

Content: There are many misconceptions about scientific concepts that are widely accepted by the general public. Some topics include cracking your knuckles cause arthritis and it takes seven years to digest gum. Students are required to research a topic of their choosing and write a term paper on it following the guidelines below. For assistance in choosing a topic, please consult the internet or your professor.

Be sure to use credible sources when conducting your literature search. One of the sources **MUST** be a credible scientific source such as Science Daily, Science News or Scientific American. Make sure that all sources are properly cited within the text and on a References/Works Cited page.

Due Date and Submission: **Students will complete this assignment and submit an electronic copy by 11:59 pm on 04/10/19.** No paper or email submissions will be accepted; this assignment **MUST** be submitted via Blackboard. The assignment may be submitted early, but **NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** If a student needs clarification, please email the instructor as soon as possible. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL IT IS DUE TO ASK QUESTIONS!**

Grading: This assignment will be graded out of 100 points. For a breakdown of points, refer to the second page.

Paper Format: Students are expected to turn in a minimum of 3-pages. Use double-space, 12 pt. Times New Roman font, and 1-inch margins on all sides of the pages. The first page is the title page, which should include the title of the specific misconception that you choose along with your name and section number. The body of the paper will be a minimum of 1 full page (excluding graphics) and a maximum of 2 pages of body. The last page will be the References/Works Cited page. Please note Wikipedia is not a valid source.

*Failure to comply with format guidelines will result in point deductions.*

### Guidelines:

Be sure to write a paragraph describing each of the following:

- 1) Introductory paragraph (4 sentences minimum)
  - a. Thoroughly introduce the misconception by providing a detailed background on the topic
    - i. Give a background on the topics the misconception covers. For example, if you study chocolate causes acne, give a complete overview about chocolate, acne, etc.
    - ii. Any history of the misconception should be explained here as well.
  - b.
- 2) Explain the correct **scientific explanation** of the phenomenon. (5 sentences minimum)
  - a. What is the real cause of the misconception?
    - i. What is the actual science underlining the misconception? For example, if you study chocolate causes acne, discuss the scientific composition of chocolate and if there are any studies correlating that with acne formation. Also describe the scientific process of acne and determine if chocolate has an effect.
  - b. Provide specific examples of at least 1 article/reliable resource to support your stance on the correct scientific explanation
- 3) What is the relevance of this misconception to your everyday life and this course? (4 sentences minimum)
  - a. Describe your thoughts opinions on the misconception as a result of completing this assignment.
  - b. Reflecting on this course, has there been any topics we covered that were relevant to this misconception?
- 4) Concluding thoughts (2 sentences)
  - a. What is the take-home message of the entire paper?

Grading Breakdown:

| Max pts | Category                        | To earn the maximum points  |
|---------|---------------------------------|---|
| 5 pts   | Format                          | 1-in margins<br>Double-spaced<br>12 pt Times New Roman font<br>Minimum of 3 pages: title page, reference page, min 1 page body, max 2 page body             |
| 25 pts  | Introduction of Misconception   | Overview of misconception<br>Detailed description of each component of the topic and controversy  |
| 40 pts  | Correct Scientific Explanation  | Explain the correct scientific explanation underlining the misconception<br>Provide scientific article examples confirming/denying the validity of the myth |
| 15 pts  | Relevance to Real-World         | Overall personal thoughts regarding the misconception<br>Examples of course content relevant to misconception   |
| 5 pts   | Conclusion                      | Concluding remarks about the misconception/paper  |
| 5 pts   | References                      | In-text citations<br>Correctly formatted references (APA format/MLA format)<br>At least one credible source   |
| 5 pts   | Originality, Creativity, Effort | Minimum direct quotes<br>Minimum spelling errors<br>Minimum grammatical errors<br>Correct number of sentences within each paragraph                         |

Other helpful hints:

- Remember to paraphrase when possible and avoid direct quotations or else there will be penalties.
  - Be sure to provide in-text citations for information that is not common knowledge or information that was obtained from a source even when paraphrased.
- Explain each of the above points in DETAIL! Write more not less.
- Feel free to insert diagrams and pictures that help to illustrate your point. However, please remember that they are not included in your page count. So if you insert a graphic, then the body of the paper should be longer than 1 page.
- Reread your paper paying close attention to spelling and grammar.
- Seek assistance if you require it.
- Do not wait until the day before it is due to begin this assignment.

Grading Rubric:

| <b>Criteria</b>                       | <b>Excellent</b>   | <b>Above Average</b>   | <b>Average</b>  | <b>Below Average</b>   |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| <b>Format</b>                         | Followed all format guidelines<br>5 pts  | Missing 1 formatting guideline<br>4-5 pts  | Missing 2 formatting guidelines<br>2-4 pts  | Missing 3 formatting guidelines<br>0-2vpts   |
| <b>Introduction of misconception</b>  | Thoroughly introduced and described each component of the topic/misconception<br>19-25 pts   | Adequately introduced and described each component of the topic/misconception<br>13-19 pts                             | Inadequately introduced and described each component of the topic/misconception<br>7-13 pts                                       | Provided a poor introduction to each component of the topic/misconception or no introductory paragraph present<br>0-7 pts              |
| <b>Correct Scientific Explanation</b> | Thoroughly explains the correct scientific explanation and provides scientific examples<br>30-40 pts                                     | Adequately explains the correct scientific explanation and/or provides scientific examples<br>20-30 pts                | Poorly explains the correct scientific explanation and does not provide scientific examples<br>10-20 pts                          | Missing or incorrectly explains the correct scientific explanation<br>0-10 pts   |
| <b>Relevance to Real-World</b>        | Clearly described personal thoughts and application of course content to misconception<br>12-15 pts                                      | Adequately described personal thoughts or application of course content to misconception<br>8-11 pts                   | Partially described personal thoughts or application of course content to misconception<br>4-7 pts                                | Missing or poor description and/or explanation of your personal thoughts and application of course content to misconception<br>0-4 pts |
| <b>Conclusion</b>                     | Thoroughly provides concluding remarks and delivers a strong take-home message<br>5 pts  | Adequately provides concluding remarks and a take-home message<br>4-5 pts  | Provides concluding remarks without a well-defined take-home message<br>2-4 pts   | Missing or poorly concludes the topic<br>0-2 pts   |
| <b>References</b>                     | Provides proper number and format of in-text citations, correctly formatted references page and used at least 1 credible source<br>5 pts | Missing a couple in-text citations, correctly formatted references page and used at least 1 credible source<br>4-5 pts | Missing most in-text citations and/or references<br>2-4 pts   | No references page and/or no in-text citations and/or no credible source used<br>0-2 pts   |
| <b>Effort</b>                         | Less than 5% similarity, minimum errors, correct number of sentences, and minimum to no direct quotes<br>5 pts                           | Less than 15% similarity, correct number of sentences, some errors and minimum use of direct quotes<br>4-5 pts         | Less than 15% similarity, correct number of sentences, excessive use of direct quotes and/or errors reduce readability<br>2-4 pts | More than 15% similarity<br>0-2 pts  |



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