

Term Project – Choose 1 of the 2 options

Due: March 23, 2020, 11:59 pm Submission: See link in Term Project box on Moodle

Option #1 – Personal Field Trip

Overview:

Option 1 asks you to investigate a site where the public is invited to interact with plants. This could be, for example, a public garden, a community garden, a greenhouse that is open to the public, a farmer's market, a park or conservation area, a museum etc.

The first objective is to observe the nature and quality of plant-people interactions at your chosen site. The **second objective** is to experience the site yourself, and aim to learn about **one** of the plants there.

If you can, speak to someone who works at the site, either about the venue, or about some of the plants. Make use of websites, brochures, and other available information about the site you have chosen.

Use online information, plant reference books, youtube videos, and any other (reputable!) sources that are helpful to you in discovering information about one of the plants you've seen. There are also some links in the "supplementary sources" box on Moodle.

Your project will be assessed based on the character and quality of your observations, and your ability to support your findings using information from your notes from the site visit, and from good-quality sources with reliable information.

Your rough notes may be requested – please do not delete them until after a final grade has been submitted for the course.

Step by Step instructions:

1. Choose a public site where people interact with plants.
2. Gather information about the site – through websites, books, brochures available on site and elsewhere. Aim to use 3-5 sources.
3. Arrange an opportunity to visit the site for a minimum of 1 hour. You may visit the site more than once if you wish.

4. Bring something to take notes with, and sunscreen and insect repellent if you're planning to visit a park or conservation area and/or plan to be outside for an extended period.
5. Aim to find staff or contact personnel to help you understand more about the site (recommended but not required). Please credit any verbal information you receive as "Personal Communication" and give the person's name if possible, or refer to them as "Employee of...."
6. At the site, take notes on your observations and experiences of the site – both on how people are interacting with the plants, and your own interactions with plants.
7. Using 2-3 sources, find some information about **one** of the plants you encountered.
8. Write a 4-5 page double-spaced report on your site visit, and what you learned about plants, and plant-people interactions. Be sure to include a title page, and a References page in APA format (see link). You may want to consider the following questions as they apply to your particular site:
 - What is the purpose of the site? How do you know?
 - What kinds of plant-people interactions are encouraged at this venue?
 - What kinds of plants or plant products (if any) are available to the public?
 - How has the site been designed to facilitate people's encounters with plants?
 - What kinds of interactions with plants have you had at the site? What kinds of interactions have you seen others have? What have you learned?

Important Notes:

Photos:

- You may include photos in your report that you have taken yourself (recommended!), however, please ensure that you have permission to photograph the site (for example there can be restrictions on photography in museums).
- Ensure that you have permission before taking pictures of someone else.
- Photos are not included in the page count. Please add them to the end of the paper.
- Ensure that your photos each have a Figure number (Figure 1, Figure 2), and descriptive caption explaining what you want the reader to note about the photo, and how it connects to your report. Make sure you refer to the figures in your document in order (ie. You might say that you saw many examples of fruit trees, and then refer to Figure 1, which is a picture of a grove of trees)

IMPORTANT: If you are visiting a conservation area, park, hiking trail, or similar naturalized area take care to avoid the 3 following plants, which can harm the skin. Wear long pants, sleeves and sturdy closed-toe shoes if you will be walking through vegetation:

Poison Ivy – can give you a contact rash due to the chemical urushiol in the sap. This grows in patches low to the ground. Remember “leaves of 3, let them be”.



Giant Hogweed – the sap causes blistering when contacted skin is in the sun (phototoxic)

Stinging Nettle – its trichomes (epidermal hairs) contain chemicals that produce a stinging sensation and a rash



Option #2 – Plant Observation Exercise

Overview:

Option #2 asks you to encounter and investigate **one** specific living plant.

The first objective is to identify and make specific observations of one plant in your environment. This could be a houseplant, a plant in your garden, or a particular plant, tree or shrub in your neighbourhood, or on campus. You're welcome to locate a tree on campus using the Keele Campus Tree Inventory on Moodle (in Supplementary Links), or to purchase a plant from a local store for the purposes of this study. You can also use the resources on Moodle to identify a specific native plant in a park or garden. Be sure you choose a plant you can correctly identify.

The second objective is to learn more about the plant through library and/or online resources, and to combine what you learn with your personal observation of this plant. Use 4-6 different (reputable!) sources. You may also speak to a plant expert (for example, at a garden centre). Please credit any verbal information you receive as "Personal Communication" and refer to them as "Employee of...."

Step by Step instructions:

1. Choose any specific plant that you can identify by common name and Latin name.
2. Photograph the plant in its current location.
3. Make notes about the plant in its environment – is it in a particular room, on a specific part of campus, near your home, in a park, etc? Be as specific as possible about its location and the environment.
4. Gather information about the plant – through websites, books, brochures available through York Library and online. Verify the quality of your sources. Aim to use 4-6 good quality sources. Here are some possible kinds of information – feel free to add your own.
 - Common name and Latin name
 - Place of origin
 - Common uses (material, medicinal, environmental, aesthetic etc.)
 - Any interesting references in popular culture?
5. Make some observations about your particular plant for a total of one hour (you may break this up into smaller time blocks). The following questions may help you make observations. You may use any that apply and may add your own.
 - Specifically, where is this plant?

- How are you or others interacting with the plant? Is it performing a particular function for you or others (ex. Beautifying your desk, producing berries, cleaning office air, producing flowers, offering shade in a park, providing a habitat for particular organisms, etc.)
 - Is the plant on its own or is it surrounded by other plants? Is it in a park, building, urban area, etc.
 - How well does your observation of the plant correspond to published descriptions of others of the same species? Consider leaf shape, flowers, stem, height, location, and other characteristics.
 - Is the plant in its natural environment? Where is the plant originally from if it is not native? Do you know how it got there?
6. Write a 4-5 page double-spaced report on your plant that integrates the information you've collected and observed.

Important Notes:

Photos and illustrations:

- Be sure to include at least one photo of your particular plant.
- Ensure that you have permission before taking pictures that include someone else.
- Illustrations and images that are taken from other sources should be properly credited, and should not be copyrighted – as a suggestion, use images available through Wikimedia and provide a photo credit.
- Photos and any figures are not included in the page count. Please add them to the end of the paper.
- Ensure that images each have a Figure number (Figure 1, Figure 2), and descriptive caption explaining what you want the reader to note about the photo, and how it connects to your report. Refer to your figures in the text of your document in order (refer to figure 1 first, etc.).