

HBS204VerB - Scientific communication assessment



Over the last two study periods, we have examined the physiology of most of our major organ systems. For this final assessment, you are going to research and prepare a 6–8-minute presentation on a disease of your choice that will be viewed by your peers.

The disease you choose must impact one of the physiological systems we have covered in either HBS202 or HBS204 and **you must be able to describe how the disease changes the physiology of the system.** This may make some diseases harder than others so think carefully about your choice.

In your presentation, you must include the following information:

1. An introduction – make sure you introduce yourself and explain why you have picked the disease you will be discussing.
2. Information about the disease – this could include how many people will suffer from the disease, causes if they are known and symptoms.
3. How the disease changes the physiology of the tissue/organ system(s) involved. You will need to make sure that you introduce what is normal before you discuss how the disease changes it and leads to symptoms mentioned in question 2.
4. What is one aspect of the disease that you have chosen that researchers are currently focussing on, this is where you will need to have a look in the scientific literature, and it needs to be “current” specifically from 2020 or 2021.
5. Potential treatment – you need to pick one intervention that is commonly used to treat the disease and explain how this works **making sure you talk about the relevant physiology.**

Remember – this assessment is about you communicating **the physiology** of your chosen disease not just general information about the disease copied from the internet.

You will need to do some research and include information that isn't just from textbooks and Wikipedia. You will need to reference your presentation (further information on this will be provided on the LMS).

Instructions

The objectives of this task are:

- To **investigate a novel physiological concept** (i.e. something that is relevant to, but has not been directly covered by, your lectures);
- To develop **research skills**: to select appropriate sources of reliable and relevant information;
- To develop **scientific writing skills**: to use vocabulary appropriate for a general scientific audience when preparing your talk, and to develop a concise story that conveys the major features of the technique in a logical sequence;
- To develop **audio-visual presentation skills**: to use information gathered by your research to construct a short verbal description of physiological concepts using diagrams to assist you with your explanations;
- To develop **correct referencing and other acknowledgement skills**.

Resources

Textbooks

You can find some general information in your prescribed Physiology textbook, however it will not be able to help you answer all of the parts of this assignment:

Silverthorn, D.U. (2019) Human Physiology: An Integrated Approach 8th Edition (Global Edition), Pearson

Any Anatomy and Physiology textbook will be able to provide you with useful basic information

Websites

The web is an immense resource, but be careful - apart from some sites such as those run by the publishers of scientific journals, very few web sites are peer-reviewed or checked for accuracy. For further information on assessing the integrity and validity of information sources, visit the La Trobe University library web site (<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/library/help-and-training/videos>). Also remember that any information sourced from the web has to be acknowledged in a citation, just as a print-based reference would be. Wikipedia is not an acceptable reference for this assignment.

You need to make sure that you include in text citations where relevant. You do not need to use APA7 as this takes up a lot of space on your slides. Instead consider using author date or numbering of the references on your slides (have a look at the video on the LMS for more information). You need to include a full reference list at the end of your presentation.

For this assignment you may find that some of your references are from the early 2000's, particularly those about your chosen disease – that is perfectly OK. Remember, you do need to use a resource that is from 2020 or 2021 for one aspect of the presentation

Create your presentation

After you have gathered all your research together and decided what should be included (and just as importantly, what should be left out!), the next step is to record the presentation with voice over to demonstrate your knowledge in this area. There are a number of tools that can be used to record your presentation. PowerPoint slides with audio voiceover is perfectly acceptable (information on how to do this can be found on this website <https://www.lifewire.com/how-to-record-voiceover-powerpoint-4173784>). A follow on article explains how to convert your presentation to a video <https://www.lifewire.com/convert-powerpoint-to-video-4165363>. An alternative approach is to record yourself in Zoom.

If you are feeling adventurous, you can try one of these other software options:

- 'Explain Everything' (collaborative & interactive whiteboard; <http://explaineverything.com>)
- 'CamStudio' (screen and audio capture; <http://camstudio.org>)
- 'Camtasia Studio' (TechSmith Corporation, free trial version) This is what we use in the department to create the recordings that you see on the LMS
- Quickcast (Mac; free)
- Screencast-O-Matic (Windows; free; <https://screencast-o-matic.com/home>)

If you would like to appear in your presentation, that is great but there is no expectation that you do. **You must make sure that you include slides of some kind in your presentation to be eligible for fullmarks.**

Submit your presentation for assessment

Once you have recorded the presentation, you will need to save it **as an .mp4 file** and upload it to the dropbox on the LMS. This is not a drag and drop submission, you need to read the instructions that are on the LMS about how to do this. Please note that it does take some time to upload the file, don't panic that it isn't there but you do need to make sure you allow a bit more time to process the file.

You must also submit your slides and script to a separate Turnitin drop box to ensure that you have written the information in your own words. This is not marked but you must submit your script.

Deadline

Your presentation is to be submitted to the LMS drop box no later than 23:59 on Sunday 14th November.

Assessment

This task will be assessed based on the detailed marking rubric provided on the last couple of pages of this document. The marks for your audio-visual presentation will be weighted as follows:

- 60% on scientific content; and
- 30% on the quality of the presentation and
- 10% on the correct use of references

Within three weeks of submission, a member of the physiology teaching staff will mark your presentation using the rubric below and provide written feedback. You will receive a mark out of 100 for your presentation but remember this will be scaled down to a mark out of 30 for your final grade.

Late submission You will be able to submit your assessment for 5 days after the due date (until 23:59 Friday 19th November), however your final mark will be subject to a penalty of 5% per day that your submission is late up to a maximum of 25%. After 5 days you will be given a mark of 'zero'.

Criteria	Excellent 80-100%	Good/Very good 65-79%	Pass 50-64%	Fail <50%	Marks
<p>Structure of talk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Layout and organisation of slides Use of diagrams, clarity of visual aids Text kept to a minimum and used as discussion points for the presenter <p>Presentation of talk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audibility/volume of voice, rate, intonation, fluency Ability to adhere to time limit Submitted script to Turnitin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diagrams and visual aids effectively increased the clarity of the slides and helped to convey information to the audience Text was kept to a minimum and used as discussion points rather than entire sentences Presenter spoke clearly, confidently, and fluently Presentation adhered to time (6-8 min) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As for 'Excellent', however some diagrams/visual aids lacked clarity or relevance to the information being presented Some sections of dense/small font text which forced the audience to read the information rather than listen to the presenter Presenter spoke clearly, but lacked some confidence and fluency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides were difficult to follow and/or did not adequately convey the information. Large sections of dense/small font text which forced the audience to read the information rather than listen to the presenter Presenter spoke in a manner which was difficult to understand and struggled to convey information to the audience Presentation was far too long or far too short (<5 or >9 min) Script submitted to Turnitin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No slides presented No talk presented 	/30
<p>Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefly introduces the disease being discussed Shows a good understanding of the normal function of the physiological system/process affected by the disease Shows a good understanding of how the normal function of the physiological system/process is disrupted by the disease and how that leads to the common symptoms displayed Provides a description of one aspect of the disease that is currently being investigated Provides a description of one intervention commonly used to treat the disease and explains how this works using the relevant physiology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation showed an excellent overall understanding of the physiological system affected, including both its normal function and how that function is disrupted by the disease Symptoms of the disease were presented only as an end point of disruption of normal physiological processes, rather than as a 'laundry list' of symptoms for clinical diagnosis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As for 'Excellent', however the explanation of the normal function of the physiological system was somewhat lacking and there was slightly too much emphasis on the symptoms/treatments of the disease rather than the physiological processes involved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation focused too much on pathological and/or clinical symptoms and treatments for the disease, without adequately explaining the physiological basis for these symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No mention of the physiological processes affected by the disease. 	/60
<p>Referencing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gathered at least five references/sources for article Correct use of on slide citations Full references provided appropriately in reference list Information sources are chosen appropriately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was a comprehensive and varied list of references cited, including more than the minimum of five journal articles or reviews. No more than one web-based source was included in the verbal part of the presentation, and it was deemed to be of excellent integrity. All references were correctly acknowledged with in-text citations and were explicitly linked to key ideas and concepts. All images were titled and referenced appropriately All sources cited appeared in the reference list Reference list was complete and had consistent formatting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were at least five references cited, including journal articles or reviews. No more than one web-based source was included in the verbal part of the presentation, and it was deemed to be of suitable integrity. Most references were correctly acknowledged with in-text citations and were explicitly linked to key ideas and concepts. Most images were titled and referenced appropriately Most sources cited appeared in the reference list Reference list was mostly complete and had mostly consistent formatting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were at least five references cited, but mainly from textbooks, maybe with just one journal article or review. More than one web-based source was included for the verbal part of the presentation and they were of questionable integrity Some references were correctly acknowledged with in-text citations and were explicitly linked to key ideas and concepts. Some images were titled and referenced appropriately Not all sources cited appeared in the reference list Reference list was far from complete and had inconsistent formatting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No references. 	/10