Science Blog

What is the purpose of the Science Blog?

“While we teach, we learn.” Seneca

The purpose of the science blog is to give you a public platform that enhances the development of your Independent Research Project (IRP) and prepares you to create a successful IRP presentation. To make the most of this platform, posts should be:

- **Instructive**—you are expected to become an expert on your topic; your expertise will be developed as you teach/inform the reader about your topic
- **Informative**—your posts should include data and facts about your topic; the use of pictures, graphs and/or tables is highly recommended
- **Reflective**—you will be using a journal-type writing style (1st person e.g., ‘I’ and ‘we’) that reveals the thoughts, ideas and concerns you have about your topic/project
- **Responsive to peer collaboration**—your posts should include your responses to the questions and comments submitted by readers regarding your topic and/or weekly posts

Who is your audience?

You should consider that your audience includes any who may access this public blog; including those that may or may not have strong science backgrounds.

What is the format?

Each blog post should include 1-3 photographs accompanied by 1-3 paragraphs of text (about 300 words total). As for writing style, think about a journal. Remember, this is not a research or class paper - it’s a blog and is therefore much more informal. Posts should be centered on explaining what you are doing and learning and why it is interesting – and communicating that to others who might not have a science background.

What are the evaluation criteria?

You will be graded on (1) observations that indicate you are gaining an increasing knowledge of your research topic, (2) your ability to explain this knowledge to the public as you answer their questions, (3) your explanations of the materials and methods you plan to use to conduct your research, and (4) your posts’ format. Because the purpose of the science blog is to fully prepare you for your final IRP presentation, you will also be graded on (5) the number of posts you create; a minimum of one-per-week is expected.
OCE1001 Lab Scaffolding Plan

**Field/Lab Notebook — Informal**
(Includes data, observations, errors, thoughts, concerns and requires proposed scientific question, graph and data interpretation)

**Field Exercises — Formal**
(7 field/lab experiences designed to expose students to posing scientific questions, selecting/using instruments, and data collection, recording, graphing and interpretation)

**Graphing — Formal**
(Labs 2 and 3 are devoted to graphing. Includes graph selection, data entry into Excel and data interpretation)

**Mid-term IRP* Presentation — Formal**
(Peer-/professor-reviewed. Presentation to include scientific question, materials, methods, proposed graph)

**Science Blog — Informal**
(Weekly posts are written to help students develop/expand IRP ideas via comments/questions made by peers and public)

**Final IRP Presentation — Formal**
(Peer-/professor reviewed. Includes scientific question, material, methods, currently-known information, graph/data interpretation, errors, proposed future research/changes to plan)

*IRP—Independent Research Project