

Criteria for the grading of the research paper:

- 1) Topic- The ideal topic is related to topics covered in Chem 431C. It should be an original paper research (not a review) and give a clear explanation of the significance of the work [10 pts max]
- 2) Abstract – written in 75-150 words. Ideally the abstract should be very concise, containing key points with a minimum of words used in complete sentences and includes: techniques, results and conclusions. Abbreviations can be used (with complete words at first to explain abbreviations); should judiciously reserve introductory statements to Intro and principles section. [10 pts max]
- 3) Intro/principles – This involves details of methods, results (graphs, data) & conclusions [12.5pts]
- 4) Conclusion – This should reflect the individual student's comments and critique of the work in the student's own words. [7.5 pts]
- 5) Overall format – The report should follow the outline of a well organized scientific paper including abstract, introduction, materials and methods, results, conclusion. [10 pts max].

Topic/significance/	Abstract	Intro/principles	Conclusion –	Overall format
Original paper	Concise, own wds	Complete	reflects students conclusions/critique	Well organized.
X 10	X 10	X 12.5	X 7.5	X 10

Topics for your paper must be approved by the instructor. You are to submit 2 – 3 possible papers with a brief explanation of each paper by the end of the 5th week. The paper will be due by the end of the 9th week. Do not procrastinate or make the preparation of the paper conflict with your final exam review. You must also affirm that your choice of a paper is not in a field of biochemistry which is already well known to you (for example –you are doing research in a lab and it is in a very similar field,, or you have already written or reported on an area similar to the topic of the paper). Approval of a paper by the instructor does not imply that the instructor has any particular preference for that paper. It is sometimes possible to change the topic of a paper before the 6th week but not after.

The purpose of this research paper assignment is for the student to learn or get more deeply familiarized with a certain field of biochemistry of her/his choice. It is also a way to get the student involved in the process of research – at least from the theoretical point of view.

Your papers will be read and graded according to the 5 criteria listed above – i.e. weighted according to the points it is assigned above. A maximum of 50 points will be assigned only to the very best papers. Excellent papers = 45-50 points. Good papers = 35-44 pts. Satisfactory papers = 25-34 pts. Poor papers = 11-24 pts. It is strongly suggested that before submitting your paper, you go over the rubrick carefully and judge your own paper according to it. It is hoped that the student will be able to express in their own words any new insights she/he has gotten from this paper.