

Genetics & Epigenetics Program Writing Course

Fall, 2020

3:00PM, Mondays on Zoom

Class #	Lectures	In-Class Student Activities	Assignments for Next Week
Before Class 1			With advisor input, prepare list of outstanding questions in field of interest and propose review topic for Class 1
Week 1 31August20	Introductions Types of reviews	Students present their research, questions in the field and proposed topics	Develop topic, questions, scope, type of review; identify key references; jot down ideas that you want to cover; identify target journals
Week 2 7Sept20	NO CLASS LABOR DAY HOLIDAY		
Week 3 14Sept20	Outlining methods and examples “Writing an Effective Narrative Review”	Students present revised topics, questions, review aims, scope, and target journals	Revise scope; compile reference list; begin general outline
Week 4 21Sept20	Search strategies and building references	Students present general outlines and revised aims	Develop search strategies; draft detailed outlines
Week 5 28Sept20	Components of a review and tips on scientific writing	<b>Small groups:</b> Students present and critique detailed outlines Discuss search strategies and key references	Refine and complete detailed outlines; draft an introduction
Week 6 5Oct20	“Tackling the Writing Process”	<b>Small groups:</b> Students present & critique draft introductions	Revise and complete introductions. Start draft of data presentation part of review (“the body”). What specific data you need to include to address the goals of the review?
Week 7 12Oct20	Figures, Legends and Tables “Creating Effective Tables”	<b>Whole group:</b> Checking in, discussion of stumbling blocks <b>Small groups:</b> Students present introductions	Review introduction content vis-à-vis data you planned to present. Revise data to be included using input from class and your advisor. Prepare draft of the body of the review. Review what data you are presenting in your review. Is it complete? Is it consistent with the goals of your review? Adjust your data presentation section as needed
Week 8 19Oct20	“Confusing Sentences Made Clear”	<b>Small groups:</b> Students present & critique the body of the reviews.	Continue to revise body of review. Plan tables and figures.
Week 9 26Oct20	“Avoiding Wordiness”	<b>Small groups:</b> Students present revised body of the review and planned tables and figures. Do the tables & figures appropriately support the goal of the review?	Further revision of body incorporating tables and figures. Prepare very rough draft of discussion, including, if appropriate, current questions in the field, areas needing future study, over-arching summary of the data
Week 10 2Nov20	“Comma Basics”	Small groups: Students present & critique key points of discussion section. Are key points consistent with stated	Keep writing, incorporating previous comments.

		goal of review? Anything missing?	
Week 11 9Nov20	Abstracts	In-class work. One-on-one help.	Prepare draft abstract and start to put it all together in final draft of review
Week 12 16Nov20		<b>Small group:</b> Students present & critique abstracts	Turn in final drafts – 23Nov
Week 13 23Nov20	THANKSGIVING WEEK NO CLASS	N/A	Read over one fellow student's draft review (will be assigned).
Week 14 30Nov20	General discussion of cover letters, review process, how to handle reviewer comments	One-on-one review of students' comments	Instructors' comments on review given to students by morning of 6Dec2020
Week 15 7Dec20		One-on-one review of instructors' comments	

Instructors:

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