

PLANTS AND PEOPLE - BIOLOGY 355 - MINI-REVIEW INSTRUCTIONS - SPRING 2008

Assignment:

Submit a paper that explains the **PROCESS** involved in transforming a plant product into a useful commodity. Acceptable topics for this paper will present the basic procedures used in making a 'value added product' from raw, plant-based materials.

Subject:

The review should focus more on the *processes* involved rather than on the plant materials themselves. Processes such as harvesting, modifying the plant products (added value), machinery or storage conditions used, transportation of raw materials and finished products, other resources required to accomplish the process (i.e other necessary raw materials), costs to carry out the process (in relative terms), waste products generated, are all examples of acceptable subjects to discuss. Some questions you might ask in attempting to decide on a topic might be: "How is 'X' made? "How do they process 'Y' to make 'Z'?" "Is that the only way to make this product?" "Why is 'X' made here when it is grown over there?"

If you have questions or difficulties in deciding on a topic, see the instructor VERY SOON. You should have a topic chosen for your Mini-Review (and Term Paper!) by the end of January (**Reminder: Submit both topics for this paper *and* the term paper by February 1st!!**). **NOTE: THEY MAY NOT BE ON THE SAME TOPIC OR HAVE THE SAME PLANT AS THE SUBJECT!**

Format:

You may elect to write about the process in a simple series of paragraphs, or you may want to divide the subject into logical sections based upon the nature of the process you are describing. The paper should be a succinct review of the subject and at least 5, but no more than 10 pages of text, double-spaced, exclusive of the literature cited and any illustrative material you choose to include. If you are including flow charts or other illustrations of the process that will help explain it, these must be cited as to source, and require proper captions to be included.

References:

All information **must be referenced and cited properly** in a Literature Cited section of the paper. See the "Minireview Guidelines" and "Term Paper Instructions" sheets for a discussion of proper literature citation format.

Presentation:

The text should be typed/word processed, easily read, and obviously should use proper English grammar, syntax, and diction. Remember that the audience is a "college-educated biologist", so simple terms need not be explained or defined. There should be 1 inch (2.54 cm) margins around top, bottom, and sides of each page **printed on one side only**. Captions to figures and tables should also be typed. Please do not choose fonts less than 10 point (or elite) type, and all text should be double spaced (exception: literature citations which may be single spaced). **DO NOT purchase binders** or term paper covers; the quality is assessed in the writing, not the cover. Simply staple all pages **securely** together at the upper left corner, **and submit the paper on time**.

Deadline for Submission:

The mini-review paper (in its completed form) must be submitted on or before **Friday, February 29th** (5 pm) and may be handed-in in class or placed in my mailbox in Bessey 253.

In-Progress Consultation:

While you are researching and writing this paper, feel free to consult with me regarding specific questions about style, references, format etc.