

Final Paper

DUE: Friday, December 3, end of day, on Blackboard
(or email as attachment if you have Blackboard problems)

In this paper you will explore a topic of your choosing related to complexity. You have already turned in your proposed topic areas. Please take my suggestions (if any) into account and be sure to consult with me if you need to change your topic. (A new topic proposal would be required.)

Paper Requirements:

- Reference and summarize three published articles on your chosen topic. At least two of these references must be peer-reviewed research articles. The third article may be a review article in an academic journal, a book chapter, or a report in a popular science magazine (e.g. Scientific American).
- Include a complete list of properly formatted references, including your three main references and any additional sources you used such as our text or other reliable online or print sources. Refer to the online APA style guide here: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>. We are not using APA style in general (e.g. title pages, etc.), but use APA style for your references, both in your inline text citations (e.g., (Mitchell 2009)) and in your reference section at the end. Start your reference section after your final paragraph; **not** on a separate sheet.
- Include your name, the class, date, and page numbers. Do **not** use a separate cover or title page.
- Length is five pages (4.5 to 6 pages max), excluding reference list.
- **Double space** your paper and leave **one inch margins all around**, (some versions of Word set the margins at 1.25 inches, so please adjust your margins as necessary).
- Use a **Times New Roman or Garamond 12-point font**.
- Backup your assignment file on your H: drive and/or other places separate from your computer or main schoolwork folder.
- The file format you turn in on Blackboard should be in Microsoft Word (*.doc or *.docx). If you use a Macintosh computer be sure to manually add the appropriate extension to your file name. You may use other programs (besides Word) to create your document (such as OpenOffice Text Document), but be sure to save your assignment as a Word file and turn in this version. If you have no access to Word, a PDF file is acceptable.

Characteristics of a well-written paper:

- Contains an introduction that introduces the topic area (to a scientifically literate person, who is not familiar with the topic area) and sets the stage for where the paper is headed.
- Integrates the three reviewed articles into a coherent and informative story about the topic area (as opposed to three short consecutive summaries). Ideally a reader would not know the assignment required three references. Instead they would just find an informative article on the topic that happens to refer to at least three references.
- Critically evaluates the material in the three sources in terms of each other and material covered in the course, instead of just uncritically reporting on what each article says.
- Covers material beyond what we covered in class.
- Uses proper sentence and paragraph structure, grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
- Is **NOT** a first draft, but is instead a thoughtfully edited, well-structured, and efficiently written paper. Start with a longer draft and condense your paper to satisfy the length requirements.