

## SCIENTIFIC STORYTELLING ASSIGNMENT (250 pts) Due: April 20 11:00AM, Presented 4/20 or 4/22

**Purpose:** The purpose of this assignment is to increase your skill at taking what you know and restating it in a way that is accessible to others with less knowledge of Biological Psychology.

**Skills:** You will use and develop several different skills (some may vary by the type of project you engage in. You'll learn to "translate" scientific information to others, to present your message to an appropriate audience, and to present to your classmates.

**Knowledge:** The knowledge you gain will depend on the topic you choose. But it will allow you to learn, in depth, about a topic in the field of Biological Psychology.

**Task:** In groups of 3-5 classmates, you will tell the story of some aspect of Biological Psychology. This could take one of several forms:

1) Tell your own story – telling the story of how science has impacted your own life directly. For instance, I might tell the story about how dementia is affecting my grandfather including information about what dementia is and how it and the treatments available for dementia are affecting him.

2) Or, it could be the story of how a scientific discovery came about. For instance, if I were interested in the interaction of stress and physical health, I might tell the story of how the field came to know that stress didn't directly cause ulcers (the scientist purposely ingested bacteria to prove that *helicobacter pylori* caused them!).

3) Or, it could be the story of a particular process in neuroscience. For instance, maybe you think it would be useful to tell the story about how synaptic reorganization or LTP contribute to memory formation (aplysia are quite photogenic, don't you think?).

And be in one of several media:

- 1) Make a video, either live-action or animated in some way. This should be about 3-5 minutes long.
- 2) Write a story. You could write it as a storybook or a blog post or some other easily accessible format to the public. It cannot take the form of traditional scientific reporting.
- 3) Do a live presentation. Tell your story in front of the class. Again, you should aim for 3-5 minutes.
- 4) Use a series of photographs/images (scientific or otherwise) to tell your story with captions and sequencing through the images.
- 5) Write and make a radio broadcast or a podcast. The story should be at 3:00 to 5:00 minutes long.
- 6) Another medium that you've proposed and cleared with Dr. Yates prior to starting.

In your presentation of the project, you'll need to show your video, tell your story (either reading what you've written or live) or show your photographs with the captions. You should identify your audience (Is it aimed at a particular age-group? Is it aimed at a particular population (people who participate in certain activities, a particular group of people (parents, kids, etc.))?). You can read about addressing particular audiences in the book in the "Readings" section of the Blackboard page.

**Criteria for Success:** Your grade on this assignment will be determined on the following criteria:

- 1) Following of the directions for format, length, and content.
- 2) The scientific accuracy of your story.
- 3) The appropriateness of your story for the audience that you've identified.
- 4) Your contributions to the group effort as assessed by peer evaluation.