Research Project

**\*Before you even start your project, please realize that you are NOT allowed to use Wikipedia.\***

Directions: You are going to be conducting a research project. You will choose a topic and will present your topic to the rest of the class. What and how you present is totally up to you. You get to decide! Make sure to pick something that interests you. The issue must relate in some way to the field of Biology in our world today.

Groups:

* Your first step is to choose a group. You need to have at least 2-3 people in a group. Unless I give you special permission, you are not going to present alone. Make sure to pick people that will be conducive to your learning and have similar interests as you.

Topic**:**

* You are choosing the topic on your own! You are going to decide the direction of your project. Please follow the guidelines below to help you decide on the topic and narrow it down to **a specific research question**. However, make sure it isn’t too narrow or too broad.
* Since you are guiding your project and there are not set questions to answer, you need to have high quality information that answers your research question and develop your thesis.
* To help narrow your search and to ensure that you are on the right track with you topic, ask yourself the questions presented below.
	+ - Do I know the field and its literature well?
		- What are the important research questions in my field?
		- What areas need further exploration?
		- Could my study fill a gap? Lead to greater understanding?
		- Has a great deal of research already been conducted in this topic area?
		- Has this study been done before? If so, is there room for improvement?
		- Is the timing right for this question to be answered? Is it a hot topic, or is it becoming obsolete?
		- Would funding sources be interested?
		- If you are proposing a service program, is the target community interested?
		- Most importantly, will my study have a significant impact on the field?

**\*ALSO REQUIRED \***

* Case Study:
	+ Each group will find at least one story to report as an example of their topic and will explain the effects whether it’s positive or negative.
* Visual (20 Points):
	+ Each group will need a MINIMUM OF ONE visual for their presentation.
	+ Your group will verbally explain this visual, so don’t try to take the easy way out and put all of the information on a Power Point.
	+ Make sure this visual is of **high quality**.
		- This means you have pictures/ graphics and accurate information.
		- It also means that it will take you longer than 10 minutes to successfully complete this graphic
	+ There are many options that your group can use as a visual.
		- Power Point
		- Posters
		- Fliers
		- Photo Peach (This is a slide show of pictures that you can use text on.)
		- Homemade YouTube
		- If you have any other suggestion, ask Mr. B for permission.
* Presentation (20 Points):
	+ The quality of your information and focus is key here.
	+ Be sure that you focus on your tasks at hand. Don’t get off topic.
	+ Work on your speaking skills. PRACTICE. PRACTICE. PRACTICE.
	+ Eye contact is very important.
	+ Also, I will allow you to bring note cards with you if you absolutely need it.
		- However, good speakers go off of their visual as a guide as to what they should talk about next.
* Work Cited (10 Points):
	+ You will need MINIMUM of **5** different sources for your project.
	+ Your group will hand-in a work cited page with all of the sites that you used.
	+ Do not use Wikipedia or other sites that can be manipulated by anyone.
	+ The **ACCURATE** information will be needed for any sites your group used for:
		- Information
		- Ideas
		- Pictures
		- Other Visuals

Grand Total – 50 points (Will either be doubled – 100 points – or tripled – 150 points – in Information Now)