

## Extra Credit Options

Micr-22, revised Fall 2016

According to our syllabus, you may earn up to 10 extra credit points this semester. Below are some options for capturing them.

- **Extended Contribution to Wikipedia**
- **Current Event**
- **Exploration of Major Themes**
- **Visit a Producer of Microbiological Foods**

Your choice is due by the beginning of lecture on May 25. If you are absent on the due date or have printing problems, you may email me the assignment by the lecture start time.

### **Extended Contribution to Wikipedia (10 points possible)**

Consider our Wikipedia contributions assignment, and make a separate, relevant, and more substantial contribution to the site. This can be a thorough expansion of an existing article, a development of a stub into something with more material, or something else that requires the implementation of your skills as a microbiologist. Turn in a brief summary of your contributions, and a screenshot of the page(s) you helped author.

### **Current Event (10 points possible)**

The goal of this assignment is for you to become familiar with how applicable microbiology is to your daily life.

- I. Find and read or listen to a news article or audio segment (no earlier than the year 2013) from a news website (ex. npr.org, latimes.com, ocregister.com, nytimes.com, cnn.com, sciencedaily.com, scientificamerican.com, etc.) that discusses your topic. Type your write-up about what is listed in part II below.
- II. Your write-up will include the following. Please label each section.
  - A. If you are writing about a news article, include a copy of your news article along with the source, author, and date of article. If you are writing about an NPR news audio segment, please include the title, author, date, and first paragraph of the segment. If you do not include a copy of your article with the required information or the previously stated information about your audio segment, your assignment will not be accepted.
  - B. Summary of article/audio segment: Using your own words summarize the key points (address the five W's: what, where, when, who and why) of the article/audio segment discussion so that the reader has a clear understanding as to the scope of the article/segment. Do not just copy word for word from your article, since that would be plagiarism! (2 pts.)
  - C. What microbiology topic does this article/audio segment reference? The article/segment that you have chosen should correspond with a topic that we have addressed. Clearly state how your article/segment is related to the topic. (3 pts.)

- D. How does this article/audio segment affect you personally? All events affect us in some way. Be creative and open your thoughts as to how current events are related to you (e.g. socially, ethically, emotionally, economically, etc.) (3 pts.)
- E. How will this current news affect future generations? Make a prediction about how lives will be affected 20 - 30 years from now by this current event. (2 pts.)

### **Exploration of Major Themes (10 points possible)**

Choose a theme discussed in this class. Create some kind of synthesis of different ideas and topics connected with the theme. This can be a concept map as demonstrated in class, a diagram, or any other format that is useful to you (just so long as I can carry it). Some potential themes are listed below, and you may choose from these or identify your own theme to explore.

Example themes:

Methods of killing bacteria usually exploit their differences as compared to our own cells.

Systems are interconnected (within the body, in environment, in society).

New tools make new questions answerable.

### **Visit a Producer of Microbiological Foods (10 points possible)**

Visit a producer of microbiological foods. This might be a cheese manufacturer, a winery, a brewery, a yogurt manufacturer, or other – apply what you know to find something that works.

Once you are there, find out as much as you can about the microorganisms and the processes the manufacturers use. Type up your findings, filling roughly a page. Be as complete as you can. You may need to consult outside resources to fill in gaps. For example, if a brewer gives you the name of the yeast strain they use, you may need to look up general information about the organism to find out how it specifically contributes to the brewing process.