

Your paper should take off from the topic of one of your seminars. In addition to the paper read for your seminar, you should bring in 2-4 additional original papers on the topic (more if necessary). Look for points of agreement and disagreement. You do not have to provide closure on the topic, but try and sum up where an evolutionary perspective on the topic has taken us to date.

- 1) *Length*: About 1500-2000 words, plus or minus 20%.
- 2) *Layout*: Typed, double space, one-inch margins all around.
- 3) *Submission*: Please submit as attachment to an email to me by the due date (see course website). I will acknowledge receipt after downloading the paper. (If you do not get an acknowledgement from me within 24 hours, that probably means I didn't get it! So try again until you're sure I have it!)
- 4) *Citation*. When you draw upon sources for evidence, cite them in the text (e.g. "Dirkin (1992) showed that males are more indiscriminate in their choice of sexual partner than females..." or "Chimpanzees are very intelligent animals (Washoe, 1991)"). There should be a one-to-one correspondence between citations in the text and references listed. This applies to what people have argued in their papers as well as the experiments they have performed. Anything you write that is not accompanied by a citation is assumed to be your own theorizing. No plagiarism. Rely on the original literature, not on stuff googled off the web.
- 5) *References*. List all sources cited at the end of the essay, alphabetically by authors' last name. Give full bibliographic details (e.g. authors' last names, initials, date, name of journal and volume, page numbers - see examples below). List only sources cited, not everything you read. Knowing how to cite secondary references is also important. Suppose you read Smith (1987), and she cited (Gayle, 1986), but you want to refer to Gayle's work (which you have not seen directly). Use this format: "Gayle (1986, cited by Smith, 1987) claimed that pigs could fly...." This makes clear to the reader what you saw, and lets you off the hook if (e.g.) Smith mis-read Gayle. Information gleaned off the web should be cited by author and date with the web address (url) cited in the reference section. If you do a computer search (see below) you will find that some of the journals are not available in the library. If you wish to use information from the abstract (but have not read the whole article) make sure you state in the reference section of your essay that you have read the abstract only.
- 6) *Quotations*. Avoid quoting other authors unless particularly apt or strictly necessary (e.g. definitions). Certainly avoid lengthy quotations.
- 7) *Introduction*. You can hardly go wrong with an opening paragraph containing a statement of intention e.g. "The aim of this essay is to contrast two opposing arguments for..". The same applies if you are going to outline arguments to come, e.g. "First, I describe several well-studied

examples of siblicide, and then I contrast several functional explanations proposed for its existence”.

8) *Usage*. Write in plain English as simply and clearly as possible. As with presentation, the clarity of style is important because it contributes to the force of your case.

9) *Unnecessaries*. Don't use footnotes, abstract or summary. These may be needed for longer works, but not here.

10) *Content*. There are no self-evident truths in science; every assertion requires evidence. There is a key distinction between evidence (= data) and opinion (= interpretation of data). Your opinion is as worthy as the next person's, but only if you can back it up with facts and logical argument. Remember an essay is not just a description or reiteration of sources, but should integrate, or re-organise, or re-interpret, or in some other way add to what has already been published. Remember to give an outline of the relevant background and don't be afraid to mention the obvious before going on to any complications. Discuss the significance of the findings, especially arguments about the interpretation of particular results.

Samples of references (list alphabetically by first author's last name, and not in the categories below which are only given as examples)

Papers in journals:

Trivers, R. L. (1971). The evolution of reciprocal altruism. *Quarterly Review of Biology*, 46, 35-57.

Or if you have only read the abstract:

Trivers, R. L. (1971). The evolution of reciprocal altruism. *Quarterly Review of Biology*, 46, 35-57. (Abstract only).

Papers in edited books:

Abelson, R. P. (1976). Social psychology's rational man. In: S. I. Benn & C. W. Baltimore (eds), *Rationality and the Social sciences*, pp. 58-87. London: Pitman.

Books:

Dawkins, R. (1976). *The Selfish Gene*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

WWW addresses:

Smith (1997) <http://www.brown.edu/Research/Primate/enrich.html>