

ADVS 3500 – Principles of Animal Nutrition
Instructions: Research Paper and Presentation (29 points)

This activity was designed to meet the course objective #3: Developing skills in expressing yourself orally and in writing.

Overall Assignment Description

There are six parts/steps in the research paper and presentation assignment (see below more details), all of which must be completed for full credit. Each step is an opportunity to orient your progress through the process of your paper and presentation.

Part 1: Choose a research topic and summarize three scientific papers about the topic.

Deadline: 09/13 by 5 pm

Points: 3 points

Instructions:

Research topic

- Choose a topic that relates your career goals and nutrition.
- Narrow your topic to something manageable. If your topic is too broad, you will find too much information and not be able to focus. A good way to find out if your topic is broad or not is doing a literature search. Various databases are available for performing literature search; good examples are Scopus (<https://www.scopus.com/search/form.uri?display=basic>) and CAB Direct (<https://www.cabdirect.org/cabdirect/search/?searchtype=advance-search>). Use your topic's key words for the search. If you get more than 15 scientific papers as the search result, you need to narrow down your topic.

Scientific papers summary

- Choose three relevant scientific papers related with your topic and summarize them (half page per paper). The journals listed in the syllabus are good sources of scientific papers and you are welcome to use other journals, but their impact factor must be greater than 1.5. Please do not summarize literature reviews. You must include these three scientific papers into your research paper.
- You can organize your summaries following the steps suggested by the article "*How to Read a Scientific Paper*" (attached). Kendall Becker from the USU Scientific Writing Center have done an excellent job describing the steps to read a scientific paper. Also, you can find a summary example on Canvas.
- Besides your summaries (all in one file), upload on Canvas a pdf copy of the research papers that you have summarized.

Part 2: Write a draft of your research paper and get feedback from USU Writing Center and Fernanda

Deadline: 10/04 by 5 pm

Points: 4 points (2 points Writing Center; 2 points Fernanda)

Instructions: one to two single spaced pages not including graphics, tables, or references. Font Times New Roman; font size 12; margins 1-inch top, bottom, left, and right. You are welcome to use more than the three scientific papers that you summarized, but keep in mind that scientific

papers and books are more reliable sources than “random online materials”. Thus, I strongly suggest using scientific papers and books as the main sources for your research paper.

Please organize your research paper as follow:

- **Title:** The title summarizes the main idea of your research paper. A good title contains the fewest possible words that adequately describe the content and/or purpose of your research paper.
- **Key words:** List the key words in alphabetical order; do not use words listed in the title.
- **Introduction:** Must include background information, research problem, and objective. The introductory paragraph should begin with an attention grabber that may be a provocative question, statistics, etc. Next, you need to provide the background information, describe your research problem, and you should finalize the paragraph with your objective.
- **Body paragraphs:** You must have at least 3 body paragraphs. In each paragraph, you should provide a key point and support your main idea (objective). Start each paragraph with a topic sentence and provide arguments and relevant evidence to support it.
- **Conclusion:** Paraphrase your research problem and summarize the key points presented in the body paragraphs. You may emphasize the significance of your findings as well. A good idea is to provide some recommendations based on the results of your investigation or suggest some directions for further research.
- **Literature Cited:** List the complete reference for each of the in-text citations used in your paper. **Citations in Text:** In the body of the manuscript, refer to authors as follows: Smith and Jones (2014). If the sentence structure requires that the authors’ names be included in parentheses, the proper format is (Smith and Jones, 2014; Jones et al., 2015), with citations listed chronologically (i.e., oldest first). Where there are more than 2 authors, the first author’s name is followed by the abbreviation “et al.” in text (but all authors should be listed in the Literature Cited section). **Literature Cited Section:** In this section, references are listed alphabetically by author(s)’ last name(s), and then chronologically. The year of publication follows the author’s names. All authors’ names must appear in the Literature Cited section. Journals should be abbreviated according to the conventional ISO abbreviations used by PubMed (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog/journals>). Please follow the sample references listed below.

Journals: VanRaden, P. M. 2008. Efficient methods to compute genomic predictions. J. Dairy Sci. 91:4414–4423.

Books: Goering, H. K., and P. J. Van Soest. 1970. Forage Fiber Analyses (Apparatus, Reagents, Procedures, and Some Applications). Agric. Handbook No. 379. ARS-USDA, Washington, DC.

- **Hint:** My suggestion is to use EndNote™ online to manage the Literature Cited section, it will save you lots of time. EndNote is a reference management software package and the online version is free. If you are using it, just select the Style J Dairy Science and your references will be formatted accordingly. You can find more about EndNote at the library or doing an online search.

USU Writing Center: You will receive 2 points by making an appointment at USU Writing Center before submitting the draft of your research paper on Canvas to receive feedback from me. The Writing Center conducts face-to-face or online tutoring sections and they can help you improve your research paper. You can make an appointment at the website (<http://www.writing.usu.edu/>). Make your appointment in advance be aware that the Writing Center is usually completely full toward the end of the semester. At the end of the appointment, the tutor will send an overview of the session to you, confirming your visit to the Writing Center. Please keep the email, you will need to upload it on Canvas as proof of visitation to get the 2 points.

Feedback from Fernanda: Please submit a complete draft of your research paper on Canvas by October 04 at 5 pm. I will give you feedback within 3 days and you will have a chance to incorporate the suggestions that I may have into your research paper before submitting the final version.

Part 3: Submit the final version of your research paper

Deadline: 10/25

Points: 8 points

Research paper rubric:

<u>Research</u> (5 points)	5 points: Sources are appropriate to the topic; sufficient in number (at least 3); and used to properly support the research paper objective.	2.5 points: Sufficient number of sources. Most sources are appropriate to the topic and support the research paper objective.	0 points: Inappropriate or insufficient number of sources. Not used to support the research paper objective.
<u>Organization</u> (2 points)	2 points: Well organized at the paper, paragraph, and sentence level.	1 point: Logically organized but uneven at either the paper paragraph, or sentence level.	0 points: Not logically organized.
<u>Format</u> (1 point)	1 point: Properly formatted.	0.5 points: Some mistakes in formatting.	0 points: Errors distract from content of the paper.

Part 4: Make a draft of your presentation (slides) and get feedback from USU Writing Center and Fernanda

Deadline: 11/16 by 5 pm

Points: 4 points (2 points Writing Center; 2 points Fernanda)

Instructions: You will have 5 minutes to present your research topic. Thus, make between 4 and 10 slides using PowerPoint. Minimum font size 25. You are welcome to use figures and graphs.

USU Writing Center: You will receive 2 points by making an appointment at USU Writing Center before submitting the draft of your slides on Canvas to receive feedback from me. Follow the instructions presented above to make an appointment. At the end of the appointment, the tutor will send an overview of the session to you, confirming your visit to the Writing Center. Please keep the email, you will need to upload it on Canvas as proof of visitation to get the 2 points.

Feedback from Fernanda: Please submit a complete draft of your slides on Canvas by November 16 at 5 pm. I will give you feedback within 3 days and you will have a chance to incorporate the suggestions that I may have into your presentation before submitting the final version.

Part 5: Presentation

Deadline: Presentations will happen from November 18 to December 04. The order of presentations will be determined in class. Please submit the final version of your slides by November 17 at 5 pm.

Points: 8 points

Presentation rubric:

- Apparent knowledge of the subject (3 points).
- Organization (logical presentation, smooth transitions) (2 points).
- Effective use of slides, description of slides, use of pointer (1 point).
- Professional appearance/dress, clear voice, appropriate body language (1 point).
- Satisfies presentation time (1 point).

Part 6: Give feedback to two colleagues' presentation

Deadline: 12/06

Points: 2 points

Instructions: Give constructive feedback to two other presentations.