

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Young Naturalist Project Planner

This is your first semester project for Honors Biology. You are a competitor for the Young Naturalist Award that is administered by the Museum of Natural History in NYC.

<http://www.amnh.org/learn-teach/young-naturalist-awards>. Use this handout and the information on their website for the information necessary to keep you on task. Your final essay based on the observations/experiments that you have conducted individually will be sent to the Museum of Natural History. Winners, finalists and semifinalists names will be announced on their website. Two winners from each grade level will be invited to the Museum in May to be honored and receive cash prizes. In this project, your teacher is also your mentor and you should treat his/her knowledge, judgment and critical eye as a valuable resource. If you have questions or concerns, need advice or guidance, or simply want to discuss your findings, Email your teacher or make an appointment to meet during or after school.

This will not only give you an opportunity to win an award but it will be worth 215 lab points! So do your very best and Good Luck!

- Young Naturalist Web quest: Use the handout provided to get familiar with the contest rules and guidelines. Make sure that you read some of the winning essays to understand how you will be judged. (10 points)
- Your Observations and at least 5 questions: Go to a place with a journal and pencil and get to know it. Spend some time there and explore. Write your initial observations down in your journal. Give details. Write at least 5 questions that come to mind (more than 5 is acceptable and gives you a wider choice). Don't worry about how you will answer it but do keep in mind that a good question can be answered with an experiment. Use information from the YNA website to guide you: <http://www.amnh.org/learn-teach/young-naturalist-awards/1.-select-a-project>. 5 questions and observations must be typed. Sketches can be submitted in a journal. (10 points)
- After you have your conferenced with your teacher, you will decide on one of the topics to investigate. Using your understanding of the scientific method, do some **research** and design an investigation and set up an EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE you will follow to answer your question. Your EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE is REQUIRED, worth 15 points and must be TYPED. Follow this format:
 - Title and Heading
 - Observations
 - Question
 - Hypothesis
 - Materials
 - Procedure
 - Data table (or a detailed explanation on how you will take your data)
 - References (in MLA format)

- Preliminary Data: Make a photocopy of the data that you have collected so far. You may turn in only the data table in the proper format. The quantitative table should be typed with a descriptive title and properly labeled columns and rows. The data itself should be handwritten in pen. Qualitative data can be in a table format too. Drawings should be in pencil and clearly labeled. (10 points)
- Final Data: The format should be like that above but we want to see additional data. (10 points)
- TWO COPIES of the First Draft of your essay must be TYPED and include ALL VISUALS (this includes photos, drawings etc). Keep a copy of everything that you turn in. Drawings may be photocopied for this part of the project. It should follow the format as specified in "How Will My Entry Be Judged?" (YNA website). Write it in essay format and include all the components of the scientific method in your essay. You will do a peer review of this essay. (10 points)
- The Second Draft of your essay should incorporate the suggestions of your peer and be a better version of the first draft. Include all the visuals (good photocopy of original drawings will be acceptable). You have to turn in your peer reviewed first draft along with the second draft at this time or you will not be able to get your peer review points. This is worth 52 points and REQUIRED.
- TWO COPIES of the Final Essay must be turned in and incorporate your teacher's suggestions. It must be your BEST version. Each copy will be complete with all visuals, photos etc. according to specifications of the Contest. The Final Essay is worth 100 points. Again, follow the format as specified in "Read the Rules". Remember that your essay will need a list of references. Search the winning entries from the past 5 years for suggestions, as some naturalist writings are universally excellent resources. When in doubt, ask your teacher for help. Keep track of every single website, journal article, book, magazine, newspaper, or interview you use as a resource. Write down all the necessary information whenever you use someone else's work. See "Avoid Plagiarism" and the references of winning entries for guidelines. Your essay will be graded according to the "YNA Rubric" on the website. (100 points)

Schedule and Grading for the Young Naturalist Project:

DUE: Cycle/Hour	DUE: Day/Date	DUE: Assignment	Points
5/Hour 2	P1 - 9/30/13 P3 - 10/1/13	Web quest	10 HW (no freebies)
6/Hour 3	P1 - 10/07/13 P3 - 10/8/13	Your Observation/5 Questions	10 HW (no freebie)
6/Hour 3 7/Hour 1		Conference to select your topic	
	10/11/13 for both classes	Typed Experimental Procedure (aka typed prelab) <i>Start your experiment now</i>	15 Lab
11/Hour 1	10/31/13 for both classes	Copy of your Preliminary data (you keep original to continue taking data)	10 Lab
13/Hour 1	11/14/13 for both classes	Copy of final data (you may continue taking data till you are ready to write the essay) Start drafting your essay	10 Lab
15/Hour 1	11/26/13 for both classes	2 copies of First Draft of Essay	10
15/Hour 1	11/26/13 for both classes	Peer review of First Draft in class	5
17/Hour 3	P1- 12/12/13 P3 - 12/13/13	Second Draft of Essay (This will be graded by your teacher)	50
21/Hour 2/3	1/15/14 for both classes	2 copies of Final Version of Essay (This will graded by your teacher and sent to the AMNH)	100
			Total HW Points 20 Lab Points 200