

BIO 205 – Introduction to Biological Research
Topic: Choosing a Topic

Annotated References

Page, S (Jun 1999) "Choosing an Undergraduate Research Project" Student BMJ, 7:p187-188

Dumler, Emily

A very useful article to anyone who needs to do just that. The article, written by Stephen Page, is geared to students entering medical research, but is broad enough to be applied to any project. Mr. Page points out the three things he thinks are most important to choosing a project. Supervision, working in an established research facility, and timing, are the most important criteria for choosing a project. There are other criterions that are important that are listed as well. These include, choosing something interesting, anticipating gains from the project, and anticipating later careers to which the project will be pertinent. This is an excellent guide to choosing a research project.

Morrison, Matthew

The main point the author makes in this article is that there are three things essential when choosing a research topic: good supervision, work in an established research department, and choose an appropriate project. He also tells how to keep in mind time, faculty helping you and most importantly is to pick something you enjoy.

Woods, Keith

This article goes over what to consider when choosing an undergraduate research project. It focuses on medical research, however it is applicable to all research. Key focus is on selecting a supervisor, selecting a research department, and choosing a project that is capable of being completed in the amount of time one has.

Kahn, C. Ronald. "Picking a Research Problem", NEJM, 5/26/94 Vol. 330 Issue 21, p1530, 4p

Hales, Robert

The article talks about what makes a research project "good" and stand out. Has some requirements for an "outstanding" project. List 10 as it says commandments for picking a research project. The article is very informative and would help anyone on any level of expertise decide on a project.

Beyea, Suzanne. "Getting Started in Nursing Research and Tips for Success." [AORN Journal] (Dec. 2000). 3 Feb. 2002 <<http://www.findarticles.com>>

Hernandez, Claudia

This journal article contains helpful information on how to identify a topic or problem of interest, and how to choose a research project worth solving. It includes steps to getting started and ensuring success for the particular project.

Trocco, Frank. "Encouraging students to study weird things." Phi Delta Kappan 81, no.8: p.628-31, April 2000.

Renfrow, Stephen

This journal article deals primarily with the selection of a topic to research. It relays the need for students to research unconventional and "fringe" areas of interest instead of merely regurgitating past studies and old hypotheses. These "fringe" areas, if studied, would prompt the student to take ownership of his research and better understand the research process. A radio interview transcript is also included in the text.