

**Details:**

- 1) Length: 15-20 pages (of text; excluding figures and references). Please number your pages.
- 2) Document Layout: Margins: 1 in; Font: 12 pt.; Spacing: 1.5 lines.
- 3) Figures:
  - a) Can be either original or used directly from the published literature.
  - b) Can be embedded within text or appended to the end.
  - c) Must be accompanied by an informative legend.
- 4) Format: *Current Opinion* series (e.g. *Current Opinion in Genetics and Development*).
  - a) See document(s) from Current Biology for *generalities*
  - b) Apparent conflicts in this document vs. Current Biology? Follow this one.
- 5) References: reference list to follow main text; use numbered references in text.
  - a) No limit on number – just be sure to cite in the text anything that appears in the reference list.
  - b) Choose five (5) references as “Outstanding” (••) and write a short (paragraph) summary of the paper and its conclusions and importance.
  - c) Choose five (5) references as “Special” (•) and write a brief (2-3 sentences) summary of the paper and its conclusions and importance.
- 6) Due: 5pm, Monday December 16<sup>th</sup> (each 24-hr. period late constitutes a letter grade reduction).

**Creativity and Originality** (quoting from H. B. White, U. Delaware):

Your paper should have an informative title and present an *original synthesis* of information. What is an *original synthesis*? A term paper that thoughtfully reviews the primary literature rather than relying heavily on secondary sources is more likely to provoke creative thinking and lead to an original synthesis. Such papers show a clear understanding of the topic and define the important unanswered questions in the field. Frequently original syntheses will be organized around a theme and include original tables and figures that summarize information from diverse sources. Original syntheses often play with ideas, provide an overview of the subject, critique and evaluate research results, and generally display personal input. In other words, the voice of the author is evident throughout. A beautifully written, thoroughly referenced paper can get no more than a "B+" if it is not an original synthesis with a well analyzed problem.

**Additional things that I will consider in grading** (these may help in organizing and writing your paper):

- 1) Your paper should be well-organized and clearly written. It is OK for you to solicit comments from colleagues (fellow students, postdocs, etc.) on your paper. This is what we all do (or *should* do) before submitting papers for publication. I do not want to correct spelling or grammar.
- 2) Relevant issues need to be illustrated with figures. You may use either original figures or copy figures from the literature (the latter need to be explicitly acknowledged and cited).
- 3) Papers with a clear integration of the problem chosen within a molecular evolutionary context will be given the highest consideration.