

PROJECT III: BIOGRAPHY OF A SCIENTIST IN THE PRESENT

Similar to project II, project III consists of a paper and a talk and you work again in groups of two. The following description is for your paper but the content will be very similar for your talk. Your audience is in both cases an undergraduate student who has no background in the field of your scientist.

Project: Write a biography about a scientist in the present (still living or having died within the last ten years). In this project you are free to choose any scientist (no restriction to physicists) who may or may not be famous. However, excluded are the scientists which are part of the syllabus (Gell-Mann and Hawking). In this project it is required that you describe the work of your scientist.

Suggestions for Scientists:

- Fay Ajzenberg-Selove (Well known female nuclear physicist, Univ. of Pennsylvania)
- William D. Phillips (Won the Nobel Prize in Physics, excellent speaker, Maryland)
- Stephen J. Gould (Author of popular books, biologist)
- Richard C. Dawkins (Author of popular books, zoologist)
- Jane Goodall (Famous animal behavior scientist)
- Hans Bethe (Won Nobel Prize in Physics, Manhattan Project)
- Edward Witten (Probably one of most brilliant living physicists, won the Fields Medal, which is the Nobel Prize equivalent in mathematics)
- Author of book, which raised your interest in science.

All of you should include in your biography a description of the work of your scientist. As part of the bibliography hard copies of at least two scientific publications are required. Each of these publications should either be a book or an article in a scientific journal. Use your notes of our visit to the library (Sept. 12), in specific use World Cat and the Web of Science. Before you sign up for your scientist make sure that you will have enough sources about the life and work of your scientist, i.e. check our library and possibly use the interlibrary loan: (Bucknell homepage → Library & Computing → Other Library Services: Interlibrary loan). You may consider to also interview your scientist (in person, via telephone or via email). An interview is however optional and not required (because some of the scientists, might simply be too busy to answer to your request). In case you decide to interview your scientist follow the description below.

Groupwork: (same as for project II:) Since you work in groups of two, divide the paper into two equal parts. Each one of you will work on different sections and then you will get together to combine them. You will get two grades, one for your part (when you hand your paper in, indicate clearly who worked on which sections), and one for your whole paper.

Interview:

- Arranging an Interview
 - Ask politely if your scientist might have time to meet with you or to answer questions on the phone or via email. (Most likely anybody you ask has a busy life, so do not assume that you will get a positive answer.)
 - Specify in your question how long your interview would roughly take.
 - Specify that this is for a project in our class. Explain shortly which kind of course and which kind of questions you would have.
- Planning an Interview
 - Learn about the scientist before you walk into the interview.
 - Prepare specific questions.
 - Focus on a few topics.
- Interview
 - Take clear and complete notes.
 - Ask whenever something is unclear to you and slow down your scientist if the information comes too fast.

**Academic
Responsibility:**

Same as for all papers: Find your own words. For the sources of the content of your paper reference the sources you used all through the text. In case of a direct quote you have to use quotation marks and refer to the source.

Deadlines:

Nov. 10: Sign-up with group partner and for scientist.
Nov. 12: Bibliography (minimum: two scientific publications & one book)
Nov. 19: First version of paper.
Nov. 21: Second version of paper.
Dec. 1: Final paper.