**Presentation**

As an upper division biology student, I think it’s important to become comfortable communicating with other scientists both orally and in writing. For this class, you can either give a presentation on a topic of your choosing (suggestions below) or read and review a popular-style parasitology book (see book review).

Suggestions for your talk: decide on a topic, read peer reviewed articles on the subject, prepare a PowerPoint presentation, practice (enlist the help of your group members), and evaluate. Make sure you give yourself plenty of time to do a quality job—I can almost guarantee you can’t do this the night before.

I have listed 21 possible topic choices for your talk. The references that follow include one or two papers that address each of the topics. You may find these to be helpful starting points in your literature search.

1. The leading hypothesis to explain the evolution of sexual reproduction is the disease-resistance hypothesis. How has this hypothesis been tested by Curtis Lively and others?
2. Worm therapy for autoimmune diseases?

3 Can parasites affect mental agility and the ability to learn?

4. Can parasites decrease an animal’s ability to avoid predation?

1. Can parasites influence the production of hormones/change behavior in vertebrates?
2. Can parasites make you less sexually attractive?
3. Can vertebrates be parasites?
4. Economic parasitology: is there a cost to worm control? food-borne parasites?
5. Forensic entomology.
6. Molecular parasitology.
7. Harmonious parasites.
8. Herbal medicines and parasites: a case of co-evolution?
9. Modulation of the host immune system by parasites.
10. How can parasites survive when engulfed by macrophages?
11. Novel and bizarre parasites.
12. Parasites, charlatans and misinformation.
13. The role of parasites in generating evolutionary change and novelty.
14. Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases.
15. Why didn’t Columbus take any diseases back to the Old World?
16. *Wolbachia*: Applications to Human Health.
17. Global Climate Change and Infectious Diseases

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Also see: 24 June 1994 issue of *Science*, Vol. 264, devoted to Parasitology.

# Presentation (rubric for presenters)

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Criteria

Poor Excellent

There was a reference page

that includes several recent

primary literature citations 1 2 3 4 5

The talk is organized in a clear

fashion with ideas that flow in a

logical sequence 1 2 3 4 5

There is an adequate discussion

of the topic. 1 2 3 4 5

Quality of visual aids 1 2 3 4 5

The talk is concise (15-20 minutes) 1 2 3 4 5

Comments