

Infographic Guidelines

The goal of this assignment is to get you to *communicate* a topic of human variation to the general *public* as an infographic.

Overview

Human variation is the basis of most biological anthropological research. However, the public often misunderstand the meaning of these studies. This often results in the misuse of research results to exacerbate inequalities.

You will work on your infographics in groups 2 or 3, as all studies of human variation are collaborative.

In these groups, you will need to develop a research question that can be answered in the space of the infographic. Questions will need to be revised as you and your group complete more research; this iterative process will likely take a few weeks.

Research will focus on recent peer-reviewed journal articles to communicate the latest information about human variation. As you review the scholarly literature, make note of any controversies, counter-arguments, and future directions.

You will need to synthesize the original data and present a simplified version on your infographic. Clear data presentation is a key component of infographics.

Finally, you will design a visually pleasing infographic to present to each other, at the Undergraduate Student Research Symposium, and on social media.

Starting after the first test, we will work together as a class on small activities to build skills so you can successfully complete this assignment.

One of these activities will be to create a rubric for grading the infographic. You will use this infographic to grade two other infographics. Peer-review is an integral part of the scientific process, which you will practice here.

Learning Outcomes

By successfully completing this assignment, students will be able to:

- Develop a research question that you can answer using an infographic.
- Analyze and synthesize biological anthropological studies on an aspect of human variation.
- Present facts, fictions, and significance of an aspect of human variation to a public audience.
- Collaborate effectively on a research project.
- Evaluate peer assignments to provide constructive and summative feedback.

Evaluation

As a class, we co-create a specific rubric for the infographic. You use this rubric to grade two other infographics; in turn, two other individuals grade your infographic with this rubric. I also evaluate your infographic using the rubric.

I will evaluate your peer-evaluations for thoughtfulness and fairness.

You also complete a group assessment where you evaluate each member of your group, including yourself. I average these assessments for each person.

Points	Evaluation	Type of Grade
30	1 st peer-evaluation of another group’s infographic	Group
30	2 nd peer-evaluation of another group’s infographic	
60	Instructor evaluation of your infographic	
10	Instructor assessment of your peer-evaluations	Individual
20	Group self-assessment	

Total = 150 points (30% of final grade)

Due Dates

Friday, November 1st: Last day to meet with me to discuss your topic.

Friday, December 6th by midnight: Infographic due.

Tuesday December 10th: Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Wednesday, December 11th in class: Presentations.

Submission

Upload a PDF to Blackboard under the “Infographics” assignment. Only submit one file. Name your file with the last name and first initial of each member of the group.

Suggested Topics

Below are topics you can choose to research and present information about. Most are broad, so you will choose one aspect of those topics. You are also welcome to choose another topic on human biological variation, after consulting with me.

Ultraviolet radiation adaptation

Lactase persistence

High-altitude adaptation

Climate adaptations

Population structure & history

Growth & development

Diseases & adaptation

Stress effects

Nutrition and development variation

Evolutionary adaptations

Metabolic adaptations/variation

Cold & heat adaptations

Human & other primate variation

Salivary amylase & starch adaptation

Energetics & human evolution

Life-history variation

Life stages

Sex differences

Senescence

Fertility & fecundity

Epigenetics

Archaic introgression & disease