

**Term Report/Take Home Exam**

Assignment 1, distributed 11 January 2017

Use your textbook readings, class notes, and required reading of the [COSEWIC Assessment and Status Report on Little Quarry Lake sticklebacks](#) to write a two-page [op-ed](#) (opinion piece ~ 650-750 words; plus one additional page listing your key references) informing Canadians about the evolutionary significance of stickleback pairs, what the consequences could be from threats to their persistence, and why it is important that they not be destroyed. Your essay should be directed toward a literate reader (e.g., first year university). The text must be free of jargon, clear, concise and convincing. It must inform readers on processes of speciation, and why those processes are important to understand.

**Instructions:**

Type your name, student number, “Biology 3671 Term Report 2017”, and word count at the top of page 1. Number all pages. Use Times Roman 12 as your default font. Use 1.15 line spacing. Format your text so that it is pleasing to read.

Choose a ‘catchy’ title that makes your point. Pay particular attention to the first and final sentences. Identify a single theme and stick with it. Ensure that it represents your personal view. Be certain to check online or other sources providing advice for writing an op-ed.

**Assessment:**

Evaluation will be based on the sorts of criteria that an editor would use in deciding to publish or reject your contribution. These include the article’s importance, veracity, readability and timeliness. Categories will include the tentative title/headline, theme, opening, ending, consistency, simplicity (be careful – write as simply as necessary and no simpler), general significance, importance to readers and scholarship.

**Submit a properly formatted version of the report in class as well as a MS WORD version (to your respective tutorial leader) NO LATER THAN 12:50 ON 7 APRIL 2017.**

**Anticipated Grading Scheme:**

Title: 5%

Opening: 10%

Ending: 10%

Theme: 20%

Style: 15%

Scholarship: 20%

Significance: 20%

**Marks will be deducted for articles that exceed 750 words (exclusive of references).**