

2009-2010 Schedule for GWU Rotations and Guidelines for Written Reports

The dates for rotations, power point presentations, and reports are as follows.

Rotation Dates	Power Point Presentation Dates	Report Due Dates
Rotation #1: Sept 21 st to Dec 11 th	December 11 th	December 14 th
Rotation #2: Jan 4 th to March 12 th	March 12 th	March 12 th
Rotation #3: March 22 nd to June 4 th	June 4 th	June 4 th

The rotation report must be submitted in its final form to my office (Ross Hall 425) no later than 5:00 pm on the due dates indicated above.

In class PowerPoint presentations are **MANDATORY**, and therefore failure to give an in class presentation will result in **no credit** for the course (BMSC 215), which will have to be repeated after July 4th 2010.

Writing the rotation report provides an excellent platform to gain experience in scientific writing and is an integral component of the rotation. Furthermore, it gives an opportunity to the students to organize their scientific thoughts and experimental results in a scholarly way, bringing the rotation project to a conclusion. The final grade for each rotation can only be assigned after submitting the written report along with the appropriate evaluation forms. Finally, the written report for the fall rotation will also be a graded exercise for the BMSC 216 scientific writing course under the direction of Dr. Linda Werling.

The written report must follow the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS) guidelines, as described on their website

<http://www.pnas.org/misc/iforc.shtml>. The written report must be formatted as a PNAS manuscript, with double columns and figures integrated in the text (see any PNAS issue for example). It must include the following sections:

1. Abstract: It should briefly describe the major finding of the study and should be no longer than 250 words. Although some rotations might not result in “major findings”, you still need to describe what you did.
2. Introduction: This section should be short and provide essential background about the system used and what is known in the field. Also, briefly outline the main objective of the study, and describe the overarching hypothesis your work addresses.
3. Materials and Methods: This section should be a thorough description of the procedures and special reagents used in the study. Normally, it should be detailed enough to allow any investigator to reproduce the experiments described in the study. PNAS has specific guidelines on this section. Please read them carefully.

4. Results: In this section, you describe your experiments in detail, why you undertook them, and how you performed each experiment by including all the necessary controls. In this section, you also summarize the results and refer to any relevant figures. Each figure should include a title and a complete legend that helps the reader understand the figures. This section should not contain any interpretation of the conducted experiments.
5. Discussion: In this section, you need to interpret your findings and the outcome of your main hypothesis that was outlined in the introduction section. Compare your findings and interpretations to others in the field by citing other investigators studies. Finally, conclude the discussion section by describing experiments you would perform next in order to advance your study.
6. References: Please follow the specific PNAS guidelines.

All figures and tables should be either incorporated in the text (see provided examples).

If you have any questions regarding the rotation, evaluation forms, and written report, stop by my office (Ross Hall 425), call me, or email me at the address indicated below.

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