

Evolution of the Earth
Kirkwood Community College
John Dawson
jdawson@kirkwood.edu

Writing Assignment: My Favorite Dead Thing

Topic must be selected by Friday October 30th
Assignment due date is Friday November 27th

Introduction:

For this writing assignment, I would like you to select an extinct life form that you find interesting. This could be something that we have discussed in class, but it could be something that we have not had a chance to discuss yet. The goal of this assignment is for you to delve into the life of that organism as well as its fossil record. If you are struggling with finding a subject of your assignment, please talk with me and I can give suggestions.

Basic requirements:

- 1) You must give me your subject that you want to write on by October 30th. Failure to do this could potentially result in a zero for the assignment.
- 2) You must have me sign off on your selected subject – I want to manage the topics so that I don't get 30 papers on T-rex.
- 3) This must be typed in 12 point font, double spaced, and 2-4 pages in length.
- 4) For this assignment, you must provide me a list of references that you used when preparing your essay (textbook, library books, and web sites).
- 5) You must discuss the following about your favorite dead thing:
 - a) What did it look like?
 - b) Where and when is it found in the fossil record?
 - c) Is it well preserved in the fossil record?
 - d) What type of environment did it live in?
 - e) How does it fit in its ecosystem? (i.e. What did it eat? Did something eat it?)

Grading:

The assignment is worth 100 points. You will be graded on having a well written essay that addresses the subject using the vocabulary that I have introduced you in this class. You should assume that I know nothing about your subject and that your goal is to teach me something. Points will be deducted for spelling errors and major grammatical errors – you should make good use of the spelling and grammar checker of your word processing software. 5 points will be deducted from your score for every day the assignment is late. Failure to give me your topic ahead of time could result in a reduced grade on this assignment.

Note on Plagiarism:

Please be careful when using web resources. Simply cutting and pasting from the web and then editing is considered plagiarism. You should rephrase or summarize what you read.