Homework Assignment #4

At the end of the quarter, students are required to submit either a short (5 page) proposal, or a longer (about 10 page) research paper/synthesis. As a first step, this homework asks you to provide some initial details.

If you want to write a proposal, it should be something you could accomplish in about a year, with a small budget. You can assume that you are working in a PI’s laboratory (so you have access to all the equipment, etc. necessary for the project). Below are directions for the Friends of Long Marine Lab award (others are also suitable, such as the Myers Trust Awards). You can use up to 5 pages rather than 2.

If you prefer to write a research paper, the format should follow that of a short synthesis or mini-review. Present the introduction/background to the topic, review the literature related to that topic (3-10 papers is reasonable), and synthesize the findings. IMPORTANT: we are no looking for a document that describes each paper, but rather a synthesis of why YOU find it interesting, what the major points are, where you think research should be focused, etc.

FLML Guidelines

1. One-page cover sheet that includes:
   a. Your name, mailing address, phone number and e-mail address
   b. Title of project or thesis
   c. One-sentence description of the project (the way you would explain it to a non-scientist)
   d. Your social security or student identification number
   e. The degree you are pursuing and the year in the program (e.g., senior, first-year Ph.D.)
   f. Name of your project or thesis advisor
   g. List any previous awards received related to this project/thesis and how you used them

2. Two-page proposal that includes:
   a. Introductory paragraph
      i. State the major thesis
      ii. State the significance to the research or education community
      iii. State the significance to the general public
   b. Details of your proposal
      i. What you are going to do
      ii. How you are going to do it
      iii. Where you are going to do it
      iv. When you are going to do it, including expected completion date
      v. What you expect to find
      vi. What you will do with the results
   c. Budget
      i. Describe/list the item or service (e.g., chemicals, four large batteries, boat time)
      ii. Cost
Assignment:
Students should turn in the topic for their term paper or proposal, along with the citation for one peer-reviewed paper related to that topic and a brief (paragraph) summary of the paper. You can use any standard citation format (e.g. L&O, MEPS, Chicago Manual of Style, etc), but PLEASE INCLUDE THE CITATION STYLE YOU ARE USING.

The following is due as your homework:
1) Term paper or proposal topic
2) One properly formatted scientific reference related to your topic, along with the reference style you are following
3) A brief (paragraph) synopsis of the paper, emphasizing why it’s related/useful to your topic