SUBJECT: Phylum Lycophyta

Due Date : Dec 3rd at 12pm

Please review the following requirements for your research project and make sure that your project meets them before submitting.

Your project is a research paper. As such, you will need to search for, and use an assortment of scholarly articles as your source material from which you write your paper. Acceptable references include journal articles and scholarly books on your topic. You may not use Wikipedia as a source, nor may you use your class textbook or lab manual. Your references need to be sources outside of the texts that you use for class and lab. You need a minimum of 5 references. More references (and thus more source information) will make your paper better.

Formatting should in APA style. It should be double-spaced, using a standard 12 point font (Times New Roman, Geneva or similar) with 1-inch margins. Make sure to include in-text citations of your sources. That is, when you use information from one of your sources, cite the source in the text of the paper. This is the standard way to write a research paper so that the reader can easily source information presented in your paper to the reference that it came from. The last page of the paper should be a references section where you provide the complete citation for each reference that you use.

Length of the paper should be in the 7-9 page range. You should organize your paper such that the first page or so introduces your topic, the middle 5-6 pages cover the core of your research, and you tie everything together in a 1-2 page conclusions section at the end.

Having written many of these, I can offer a few pointers. First, read through your references and make notes of information that each contains that you may want to use in your paper. Second, write an outline for your paper once you have read and summarized the information from your sources and know what kind of information you have to write about. Third, assign pieces of information from the various sources (from your summary) to your outline. You should now have an organized structure for your paper with supporting information. Finally, begin writing the paper. Usually the first draft is not as good as you feel it is when you finish writing it. Come back to it a day later and read it. In all likelihood you will now want to make some edits and changes to improve how it reads. Once you are satisfied with it, use your word processor’s spellchecker and grammar checker. There is no reason nowadays to turn in work with bad grammar or misspelled words. Use the built in proofreader.

Figures and images are ok to include but should be accompanied by a description of what they are as well as a citation in the text which refers to them to illustrate some point you are making. Figures and images do not count towards your page total. (A 7 page paper with 4 pages of pictures is really only a 3 page paper)

Finally, have fun with this assignment. The whole point of it is for you to learn something new that interests you.