Overview
Students will provide a short review of a botanical topic/question of their choosing, as long as the topic is approved. Students will orally present their findings to the class and the class will become responsible for learning and understanding the presented material. It will be each student’s responsibility to ask for clarification of concepts not adequately conveyed. The project includes a mandatory written summary.

Tie-In
The presentation of each topic is expected to include at least one tie-in to course content. This requires each student to describe how the chosen topic relates to what we have/will be learning about.

Your Research
Utilize the library. Search for books and articles on your subject or chapters in botany books. You can use interlibrary loan for offsite books or your professor can assist you with procuring books from the UCSD library. Do not wait to the last minute to get your references.

You are not expected to spend hours looking for materials. If you have difficulty obtaining literature, contact your professor for assistance.

Material published on the web could be useful for providing context or finding more solid references, but using web materials as primary sources of literature research is highly discouraged.

You may only need one reference while others will find 2-4 references handy. You must base your report on at least one printed publication (beyond those required for the course). It is recommended that you run your literature past your professor to ensure that it is appropriate material.

The Presentation
Prepare a presentation to be given to the class. A presentation should be about 5-8 minutes. Assistance with powerpoint or production of overheads will be provided by your professor, at your request.

The Written Summary
The written summary should describe your topic and summarize what will be presented. This summary will be 1-2 pages in length. It is meant to be a SUMMARY of the material to be presented to the class. The summary is due two days prior to the presentation and will be reviewed by your professor prior to your presentation so that each student can incorporate the feedback into the presentation. A digital submission will be required. Your references will need to be properly cited (see the class website).

Drafts
Draft summaries can be turned in early (at least 4 days prior to the presentation) to obtain review comments from your professor. GOOD IDEA!

Objectives
Successfully present additional information to the rest of the class regarding a botanical topic.
Details

- Presentations are on April 17.
- Summaries are due April 15.
- Utilize the criteria below to help organize your project.

POSSIBLE POINTS BREAKDOWN

30 Written Summary (3 pts each item)
1. On time (submitted via email)
2. Correct citation of source (see course website)
3. Free of errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling, and format
4. Expresses thesis clearly
5. Is well organized and unified with strong links, logical connections and well developed ideas
6. Provides supporting evidence and examples
7. Contains logical and insightful interpretations of information
8. Shows evidence of independent thought and analysis
9. Shows understanding of biological principles relevant to the course
10. Concise

Oral Presentation (2 pt each item)
1. On time
2. Clearly audible throughout room
3. Makes eye contact
4. Expresses thesis/hypothesis clearly
5. Is well organized and unified
6. Interprets information and provides evidence and/or examples
7. (8 pts) Shows understanding of biological principles relevant to the course

Article & Research Databases

http://www.sdmesa.net/library/db/index.html
For articles on ALL SUBJECTS:
EBSCOhost — magazine and journal articles...and more
ProQuest — magazine and journal articles
Also see links on class website.