

A Toast to Charles Darwin!

DUE DATE: Script with APA-formatted references, in ANGEL on February 12th by 11PM

DUE DATE: MP3 file, in iTunes U on February 19th by 11PM

Charles Robert Darwin was born on February 12, 1809, in Shrewsbury, England. The anniversary of his birthday is marked by celebrations across the globe recognizing his accomplishments and controversies (you can read more at <http://www.darwinday.org/>). I think it would be appropriate if we marked Darwin Day the same way they are going to in Shrewsbury this year.. with a toast to Darwin! After all, this year marks Darwin's 200th birthday!

Now the toast you are going to compose will be a little different than the Shrewsbury version. Your toast should honor Darwin's "life, work and continuing influence in the world of science." But here is a little twist... you are not writing the toast as yourself, you are writing the toast as if you were someone that featured prominently in Darwin's life (your identity to be determined in class). So you are toasting Darwin as a specific person – refer to yourself and Darwin in the past tense.

Keep the following questions in mind as you write your toast:

- Who was Darwin? Prepare a brief biography.
- What were Darwin's fundamental ideas?
- How did your "character" agree or clash with Darwin's ideas? What influence did your person have on his work? -- and how do they know each other?
- What is the impact of Darwin's work on today's ideas/experiments/theories?

You will write a paper with your toast, complete with APA-formatted references. Then, you will record your toast, as all toasts must be spoken! You will receive training on Apple's GarageBand on Friday, February 6, during class. Matt Frank, the Digital Commons campus consultant, will be visiting us to show us how to use the Digital Commons equipment and software.

Although there is only one Digital Commons on campus, you have access to another podcasting station! My office has also been set up as a podcast recording station. Reservations can be made for the Library's DC at the Library front desk, and reservations for my podcasting station can be made directly with me. There is a third option that should be available soon, where you can "check out" a MacBook and microphone to take home with you to record. Keep in mind that there are 13 of you trying to record for the same assignment – DO NOT WAIT until the last minute to record your audio!

I know that none of you are professional toast-writers, so I won't be looking for style and structure, rhyme and verse, etc. I'm looking for content – the science, the information you present and how you back up that information. Your paper should contain sections (and keep them separated as section in your paper) as they are listed in the assignment Grading Outline (see last page of this handout).

Your toast should be a minimum of 3 pages of science content (other “fluff” information is OK, but that should be beyond your 3 pages), double-spaced. Include a reference page at the end of the document in APA Style after your pages of content.

Then, submit your MS Word file to Turnitin.com (it is suggested you submit the file at least 48 hours before the assignment is due). After you receive your originality report, make any necessary edits. Then, load your MS Word document into the ANGEL drop box no later than 11PM on Thursday, February 12 (Darwin's birthday!).

The next part is the audio recording of your toast. Have fun – be creative! You must use GarageBand to record your audio. If you have a Macintosh computer at home, you are not required to use the Digital Commons equipment on campus, although the background noises will be significantly reduced if you record on campus. Once you finish your audio file, save as MP3 and place in the drop box in iTunes U no later than 11PM on Thursday, February 19.

Grading Outline for A Toast To Darwin!

Everyone will start out with a score of “3” in each category. From there I will determine if the response is not up to college-level expectations (can be lowered down to a 1 or 0) or if you greatly exceed expectations (up to a 5).

BRIEF biography of Darwin	1	2	3	4	5
Darwin's fundamental ideas	1	2	3	4	5
A clear description of who you are and your connection to/impact on Darwin (*counts triple!)	1	2	3	4	5
The impact of Darwin's work today	1	2	3	4	5
Fun and creative yet accurate	1	2	3	4	5
References (Quality and Quantity) (remember, no Wikipedia!)	1	2	3	4	5

TOTAL project grade is based out of 40 points

***NOTE: If your reference list is not properly formatted, I reserve the right to deduct 15 percentage points off your final project grade. If your paper is not submitted to Turnitin.com before the deadline, I will also deduct 15 percentage points from your final project grade.

This assignment will not be accepted late under any circumstances. If you do not turn in the script by the deadline, you score will be zero for the entire project. If you do not turn in the MP3 file by the deadline, it will also be a zero for the entire project.