

Marine Biogeochemistry Weekly Journals

Where/How:

We will use Blackboard for our Journals (all other material will be available on the course website). You should be able to log-on to our course Blackboard site, navigate to the journal assignment (on the left), and write away. Below describes what I'm looking for.

Justification:

Marine biogeochemistry is rapidly evolving and exciting field. The best way to learn to “*think like a biogeochemist*” and to learn this field is to get into the literature and read often and broadly. This will be hard at first, but like anything, the more you read and write about it the easier it will get. This semester you'll be training your reading and synthesizing brain muscles. Here you also have the freedom to read more in areas you are most interested in.

In class I will ask you randomly to talk about a recent paper you have read.

Feeling Stuck?

Remember the goal is for you to flip back and have a nice succinct summary of what the paper was about. It helps if you start by asking and answering the question – *why am I reading this?* We read for different reasons – maybe you're interested in the methods, maybe in this a review paper and you just want a broader understanding, maybe you are looking for specific rates? Whatever the reason – state it up front first. Then dive in. Other questions to keep in mind that might be helpful:

- Why did they conduct this study? What's their motivation?
- What method(s) did they use?
- What are the major findings and implications?
- What are the next steps?
- What questions did this paper leave unanswered or open up for future work?

Directions:

- Each week you must summarize one primary literature papers under the subject area of marine biogeochemistry. This paper must be from a peer-reviewed journal, and cannot be one that we are reading in class.
- You choose the topic – you can keep it lined up w/ the themes we cover in class that week or choose a different topic. As long as it's under the umbrella of marine biogeochemistry – then it counts.
- The summary should be between 250 – 300 words long (i.e., other requested info doesn't count toward word choice).
- For each entry include the following information:
 - Author list (if more than three just write first three and then et al.)
 - Year of publication
 - Journal info (e.g., journal name, volume, page numbers)
 - Paper Title
 - A brief statement answering the question – why am I reading this?
 - Your Summary