**Ologies homework assignment**

**Due: December 5th at 3pm (late assignments will not be accepted)**

A major component of being an ecologist is being able to share your research with the general public. However, it can sometimes be difficult to share your research with a broad audience. Alie Ward is a well-known science communicator, who has used television shows, podcasts, and science writing to connect scientists to the broader public. Her podcast “Ologies” has been nominated for many awards, and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine have recognized Ward for using her podcast to advance science education.

We will use Ologies to practice our own science education. The goal of this assignment is for you to learn something new that we haven’t had time to cover in class, and for you to share that knowledge with your groupmates.

**Instructions**

1. Find an Ologies podcast that interests you by searching [this website](https://www.alieward.com/ologies-by-topic). While there are many episodes to choose from, **in order to receive credit you must choose an episode that focuses on a non-human population, community, or ecosystem**. If you are unsure if the episode you are interested in fulfills those guidelines, please ask the instructor.
2. Listen to the podcast either directly on the website or via any podcasting service (i.e. Apple podcasts, spotify, etc.)
3. Create a 5-6 slide powerpoint presentation (it should take no more than 6 minutes to present) that you will share with your group in class. Be sure it includes the following information:

* The name of the podcast episode
* A description of the person interviewed (you may need to look this person up). What do they research? Where are they located? Why are they interested in this topic?
* A brief overview of the topic, providing any information that your groupmates would need to know to understand the episode. This may include:
  + Pictures of the Species/community/ecosystem discussed
  + If Species, the niche of that species
  + If community, the species that represent that community
  + If Ecosystem, the
* 2-3 really interesting things you learned about the topic (could be things that were surprising, fascinating, or really important for our understanding of the topic).
* A connection between what you learned in the podcast to another topic or concept we discussed in this class (I.e. if your podcast was about an invasive species, you might speculate about how the genetic diversity of that species could influence it’s ability to invade).

Once you’ve completed your powerpoint, submit it to D2L