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| **Week** | **Week Overview/Activities** | **Weekly group meeting** |
| 1 | **Suggested activities for this week**   * Begin reading papers listed in the project descriptor * Begin literature search   **Comprehension check:**   * Do you understand the project descriptor and can you identify appropriate keywords to begin your literature search? * Do you have a plan for reference management and how you will store/organise your notes? * Are you aware of the resources offered by the Strathclyde Library for [referencing](https://www.strath.ac.uk/professionalservices/library/researchrevise/referencing/) and [academic practices](https://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/strathlife/academicsupport/)? * Have you looked through the list of [suggested resources for project and time management](https://mafeeney.github.io/BM432projects/management.html)? | **What you should do to prepare for the group meeting:**   * Read the Project expectations and learning agreement documents and note any questions you have * Reread the project descriptor and note any questions you have   **Meeting Agenda**   1. Introductions 2. Discuss project description and aims 3. Project resources – overview and questions 4. Writing exercise #1: Recognising good/bad academic writing 5. Any questions/AOB |
| 2 | **Suggested activities for this week**   * Continue literature search/reading papers * As you read, pay attention to how well (or not) papers are written. Take notes on e.g. well-written methods sections in order to better inform your own writing practices   **Comprehension check:**   * Do you understand the structure of a scientific paper and know how to critically read one? * Are you using appropriate strategies (keywords and filters) for searching the literature? Are there any key papers that you might be missing? | **What you should do to prepare for the group meeting:**   * Read the selected journal club paper and note any questions you may have   **Meeting Agenda**   1. Journal club – MF to lead paper discussion 2. Writing exercise #2: Writing structure: paragraphs 3. Explanation of week 3 task (mini-journal club) 4. Any questions/AOB |
| 3 | **Suggested activities for this week**   * Continue literature search/reading papers * Start outlining thesis introduction   **Comprehension check:**   * Do you understand what makes a good and useful outline? check out some resources for writing outlines such as [how to outline](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/the_writing_process/developing_an_outline/how_to_outline.html) and [the importance of outlining](https://learningcenters.rutgers.edu/resources/importance-outlining) * For your selected paper for our mini journal club: Do you understand the aim of the paper? Can you describe the experimental methods and the results? Are the authors’ conclusions supported by the data? | **What you should do to prepare for the group meeting:**   * Ask MF to approve paper choice for week 3 journal club * Come prepared to lead a mini-discussion of your selected paper (~5 minutes)   **Meeting Agenda**   1. Mini-journal club – each student to lead a short discussion of their chosen paper 2. Writing exercise #3: Omit needless words 3. Explanation of week 4 task (detailed intro outline) 4. Any questions/AOB |
| 4 | **Suggested activities for this week**   * Continue literature search/reading papers * Start outlining thesis introduction/ start writing thesis introduction   **Comprehension check:**   * Have you read through, and do you understand, MF’s [general writing tips](https://mafeeney.github.io/BM432projects/writingtips.html)? * Do you understand how to logically structure a paragraph? * As you begin to write, are you organising your introduction in a logical way? * Are you using a correct citation method? | **What you should do to prepare for the group meeting:**   * Write a detailed outline for your thesis introduction, and bring this to the group meeting to share   **Meeting Agenda**   1. Feedback on detailed outlines 2. Discussion of introduction structure and scientific writing (principles of composition) 3. Writing exercise #4: Use definite, specific, concrete language 4. Explanation of week 5 task (model figure/flow diagram) 5. Any questions/AOB |
| 5 | **Suggested activities for this week**   * Continue literature search/reading papers * Start writing thesis introduction   **Comprehension check:**   * Do you understand the hypothesis and aims of your project? Can you explain these in your own words? * Have you looked at the Thesis Submission checklist and do you understand how your introduction should be formatted? * Do you understand what kind of feedback you can expect on your thesis intro and do you have a plan for how you can act on this feedback? | **What you should do to prepare for the group meeting:**   * Identify at least one model figure/flow diagram from the papers you have been reading and bring a printed copy to the meeting to discuss   **Meeting Agenda**   1. Discussion of model figures and flow diagrams (how, when, and why to use them) 2. Project planning discussion 3. Writing exercise #5: Active voice vs. passive voice 4. Any questions/AOB |
| 6-11 | **Draft introduction due**  **Experimental work begins**  **Suggested activities for these weeks**   * Make a detailed plan for how you will execute your experimental work, and discuss this with MF * Carry out experimental work for your thesis * Be sure to record all pertinent details needed for your methods section/begin drafting methods * Read through the feedback on your draft introduction and then contact MF to schedule a meeting to discuss it * Begin editing your introduction   **Comprehension check:**   * Do you have a data management plan ready for your project work? * Do you understand what details you should be recording in order to [write your methods section](https://mafeeney.github.io/BM432projects/methods.html)? * Do you understand how to prepare a figure for scientific writing? Have you read through MF’s figure [preparation checklist](https://mafeeney.github.io/BM432projects/figures.html)? * Do you understand the feedback on your draft introduction and how to use this feedback to improve your writing?   **Presentations comprehension check:**   * Do you understand the structure of a scientific presentation? * Do you understand the principles underlying good slide design? * Looking through your slides and reflecting on your presentation: do you discuss/explain everything on each slide, or are there some elements that are extraneous and potentially distracting for your audience? * What questions do you think your audience is likely to ask? | **What you should do to prepare for the weekly group meetings:**   * Come prepared to discuss your results from the previous week * Be prepared to discuss/troubleshoot your experiments * Think about potential next steps/future experiments * Complete any other tasks as discussed with MF   You should also contact MF to set up a time for an individual meeting to discuss your introduction/feedback.  We will also have a practice presentation meeting. What you should do to prepare for this:   * Read MF’s [presentation preparation resources](https://mafeeney.github.io/BM432projects/slides.html) * Prepare a draft of your slides for your project presentation * Rehearse your presentation 2-3x (you should have a good idea of what you want to say for each slide |