Final Inquiry Paper (35 pts)-- to be turned in by 10:00 AM Tuesday of finals week (sooner if possible).
The final group paper is to be submitted as a group paper. Be sure that all team members names are on it along with your section and team numbers. If you don’t yet have a rubric for the paper, it is in the front of the lab and a PDF version will be posted on the webpage. The paper should be written in the format of a scientific article and should include the following sections.

1. **Abstract:** This a one paragraph summary of your work. A good abstract gives a brief summary of the research topic, the problem being addressed, the methods used to address the problem, the results and the conclusions you have drawn. A detailed description of writing a good abstract was provided in your poster instructions.

2. **Introduction:** (1-3 paragraphs) Gives brief, but more detailed than in the abstract, background for your topic and model system, clearly stated hypothesis (if the study was hypothesis driven) and rationale for your approach. It should include several citations and should whet your audience’s appetite for more!

3. **Materials & Methods:** (however long it takes) Cites all previously described methods and describes any modifications or any new methods in a manner that would allow reproduction. M&M are written in paragraph form in sufficient detail that a competent practitioner in that field could reproduce the experiments, but not as detailed as a protocol in your lab book (i.e. You will lose points for having detailed, step-by-step protocols and / or materials lists). Unlike the abstract, you are assuming your audience is knowledgeable in the field. Remember, scientific papers often represent YEARS of bench work that has to be distilled down into a page or less. If you lifted the protocol from some other source (i.e. you and your instructors didn’t create a whole new protocol from scratch), you can simply say you used So-and-So’s protocol and cite the reference. If you made modifications from that protocol, just say you “used a modified versions of So-and-So’s protocol, cite it and briefly state the differences. This saves a lot of space and time and still allows readers to track down what you did.

4. **Results:** (however long it takes) Presented as clearly and concisely as possible, meaning, along with textual descriptions, graphs, tables and figures should be used whenever possible.

5. **Discussion:** (This is the most important part. Don’t cut corners here.) The discussion should explain the conclusions you have drawn from your results and their significance. You should also show a clear understanding of the concepts
involved in your topic, your methods and your results. Alternate interpretations or conclusions should be provided if possible.

6. **References:** Cite all sources of information you used in the introduction, methods or in your discussion of your conclusions and their significance. Be sure referencable statements are cited and within the text and listed in the reference section. Unlike in the poster, include full citations in your reference list with title and all authors.

*In theory,* you will already have the abstract and the figures, tables and graphs created for your poster, along with abbreviated versions of the other sections, so all you really need to do is build upon your previous work (as easy as that!). *Search the literature for articles on your topic for examples of proper format and style of scientific papers* (or just use the ones you are already citing).

**Finals Week**
Remember, there is no final exam in the course. *HOWEVER, in lieu of a final exam all students are required to come in sometime during finals week to fill out inquiry project partner effort surveys.* You can come in AT YOUR CONVENIENCE ANYTIME between 10 AM and 6 PM any day until finals end. *THIS IS WORTH 5 POINTS* and will only take you 10-15 minutes--again, at your convenience. This has to be the easiest final on campus!