GOAL: **You will research a specific marine organism by describing in detail the attributes that define it as a living entity.** Life is described as sharing these characteristics; made up of units called cells, has the ability to reproduce, is based on a universal genetic code, must obtain and use energy, responds to an environment, maintains a stable internal environment and, as a group, changes over time.

This research paper will be written in the following format:

- Typed
- 12 point, professional style font
- Double-spaced
- 1” margins
- Numbered pages; bottom-right side of page.
- Sectioned headings; section your paper with headings such as; abstract, introduction, etc.

You will include a cover page with **creative title.**

- What is your research paper about? What makes your research organism unique?
- You will have a cover page with the title of your research paper in the center.
- The bottom center of your title page will have your full name, date and the period you attend class.

You will have a minimum of 8 paragraphs:

1. **Abstract Paragraph:**
   - Your first paragraph will be an ‘abstract’ paragraph. This paragraph should be between 8-10 sentences and will briefly but clearly describe and summarize the main points of your research paper. *(Helpful hint: write this after you’ve written the paper! It’s easier to summarize what you’ve written after you’ve already written it!)*

2. **Introduction Paragraph:**
   - Your introduction, like the abstract, will tell your readers what your research paper is about. Unlike your abstract, the introduction is more narrowly focused than the abstract and should intrigue your audience to read further. *(Helpful hint: again, write this after you’ve written the paper. You’ll know more about what you’re ‘introducing’!)*

Body of Research Report: This will be organized by the characteristics of life that makes the marine organism the individual that it is. The following are your body paragraphs, in this order:

3. **Classification:** Life is based on a universal genetic code; how is the marine organism classified? *(Make a list, like the one below, in the beginning of your report…after your title, abstract and introduction.)*
   - Common Name:
   - Scientific Name *(in italics):*
(Classification continued…)

- **Taxonomy:**
  1. Kingdom:
  2. Phylum:
  3. Class:
  4. Order:
  5. Family:
  6. Genus:
  7. species:

- Location/Range: (Where could I scuba dive to see one?!)
- Map of distribution: (Cut and paste a global map with a key that depicts the population range.)

4. **Anatomy & Physiology:** Life is made up of units called cells; how is the marine organism structured? For example, color, structure, eye development, fur pattern, etc. Life maintains some sort of stable, internal environment. What is the internal environment of the marine organism like? For example, endothermic/ectothermic/homeothermic?

5. **Reproduction, Development, and Behavior:** Life has the ability to reproduce; what reproduction strategies and methods does the marine organism use to successfully reproduce? Life grows and develops; what is the life cycle, growth stages, migration, intelligence, behavior and longevity of the marine organism?

6. **Ecology & Habitat:** Life must obtain energy or materials for energy; what role does the marine organism play in the cycle of energy? What are its predators/prey? Are there other organisms in ecosystem that influence it? Food source/diet? Life responds to its environment; what is the environment of the marine organism like? Include:
   - Habitat description:
   - Abiotic factors such as latitude, depth, salinity, temperatures

7. **Other:** Anything else? (For example: what is the relationship to humans? Are there any political or environmental issues involved with this organism? Is there anything special or unique to add about this organism that is not covered in the other paragraphs?)

8. **Conclusion Paragraph:**
   - Summarize your paper, highlighting the specific characteristics that make the marine organism unique.
   - What new research do you propose for this organism?
   - Speculate how this new research will influence the future.

**Works Cited--**Must cite sources throughout paper and include a citation page at end of report. Use APA format. Use sources such as the internet, scientific journals and books.
- **Must have at least 5-7 credible sources!**