**Suggestions For Your Final Paper**

**Your paper is your final exam.** I need you to understand the goals and process for your term paper. Rather than me writing questions on a test, to which you respond using your understanding, this project allows you to tell me what you have learned. **Write this paper to show off your grasp of your learning – not the learning of some article’s author(s).**

**When you use a term; define it, discuss it. I am not so much interested in what your source says – but whether you can INTERPRET and UNDERSTAND the information. Can you put it in context? How has this course allowed you to research a topic of interest and glean meaningful information?**

For instance, pretend you write the sentence; *Natural gas is made primarily with the organic compound methane. Methane’s formula is CH4(g). It may be recognized as organic, due to the presence of extensive C-H bonds. It is a compound because it is made of atoms of at least two different elements, bonded in a specific ratio of 1:4, per the formula CH4. As a gas, a sample has the potential to expand to fill a container’s volume.*

If writing is not your thing – investigate using Goblin.tools.

For any public speaking project, or paper, you could organize it by following the Rule of 3:

* **Tell the audience what you are going to say (Intro)**
* **Tell them (Body)**
* **Tell them what you said (Conclusion)**

**But First, You Must Ask Questions**

In any project, it is important to ask some questions first. You do not need to know the answers to these questions. You can always find the answer one way or another after you have questions. Research is looking for information to answer some fundamental questions. **What do you want others to know? What do you want to know?** These questions can align with question #1 for your presentation. Now, read/research sources to answer these (and other) questions.

For Example: Possible Questions &/or Google Search for Salicylic Acid

* is salicylic acid a molecule
* are there ionic bonds in salicylic acid
* bonding in salicylic acid
* molecular structure of salicylic acid
* why is salicylic acid an acid
* how does salicylic acid work
* chemical issues of salicylic acid
* is salicylic acid an aha or bha
* why is salicylic acid considered to be a bha
* solubility of salicylic acid
* salicylic acid fat solubility
* is salicylic acid an electrolyte in water or a nonelectrolyte

**When You Begin Writing Consider the Following Organization**

**Short Introduction:** What is the subject? Why the subject is interesting, to you and to others? Why might this topic be pertinent to you, our class, the work we have been doing? What are your goals for the paper?

**Body:**

**When discussing a single chemical / a class of compounds / or a mixture of substances:**

* What is/are the molecular structure(s)? Embed a molecular structure when appropriate. Cite the source of the picture.
* Is it an organic compound, and inorganic compound or an element? How can you tell?
* If it is a single compound, of what elements is the chemical made?
* Is it used as a substance or is it found/delivered in some type of mixture?
* What is the bonding?
* Is the compound or is the overall mixture acidic / alkaline or neutral in pH? Why?
* How is the structure related to some of the properties that are worth mentioning?
* Are there interesting physical characteristics? What makes this chemical interesting?
* How does it chemically influence a system to which it is applied (What does it do? How does it do it?)?
* Is there any sort of relationship between structure, properties and important applications?
* Are there up sides / dangers to the chemical / the mixture?

**When discussing a chemical process:**

* What reactants are required? Show the chemical process. Cite the source.
* What products are produced?
* Discuss the reactants and products as the chemicals that they are (see above).
* Is it an acid/base reaction? Discuss.
* Is it a polymerization? Discuss.
* Is it a redox reaction? Discuss.
* Is it exothermic or endothermic?
* Does it result in gases, solids, liquids, aqueous solutions?
* How is the intended chemistry, physics, or science in this course related to the subject matter or presentation?

**Short Conclusion:**  What is now known/understood in terms of your goals from the introduction?

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**Lastly**, recall the details and processes that will help make this paper a successful endeavor.

Be sure you have used & defined key vocabulary terms such as, pH, molecule, electrolyte, nonelectrolyte, covalent bond, ionic bond, polymer, monomer, organic compound, inorganic compound, reduction, oxidation, cation, anion etc….

Be sure you have embedded your citations appropriately – as in your lab reports.

Remember to include a full works cited which aligns with your citations.

Write this paper so that you can show how this class has helped you grasp/research a topic of interest via your demonstration of the information from this class.

Don’t forget to consider the presentation questions (especially question 1) as you write your paper.

Thus, I told you what you need to accomplish in this paper, in terms of format and content. I wrote this piece to help guide your achievement and reminded you that the format and content of the paper are to show what you have learned in this course  **Get it?**