

Your first writing assignment, due on 6-19-07, is to write a brief (1 paragraph) summary of what your research for this summer will be focused on. You should explain the basic problem that you will be studying and broadly describe what you expect you will be doing this summer. For example, you could write that you will be studying Indian Hedgehog protein and its role in the development of long bones because many skeletal deformities like dwarfism are associated with changes in Indian Hedgehog protein. You would then go on to describe what approach you might take (We plan to overexpress the Indian Hedgehog protein in tissue culture cells to see what effects it has on cellular growth). You should also state your hypothesis (i.e., We think that IHH-7 promotes the growth of long bones by increasing the size of bone cells.). You don't have to describe everything in extreme detail, but be sure to include enough detail that the course facilitators and the other YSP students can understand what project you will be working on. You can assume your audience has a basic biology background.