Chemistry 511
Essay Assignment No. 3
Monday, April 3, 2000

Each of you will research a topic related to inorganic chemistry that you will submit as a 5-page written essay and present orally to the class in a 3-4 minute speech. The presentations will be made throughout the class periods on Friday, May 5, Monday, May 8, and Wednesday, May 10. The date for each presentation will be randomly assigned next week. The procedure and corresponding dates for preparation and submission of your essay are summarized below:

• Monday, April 3  Topic assigned in consultation with Professor Ellis and Cindy.
• Monday, April 10  Submit a detailed outline of the paper to Professor Ellis and Cindy.
• Wednesday, April 19  Submit two copies of a polished draft of your paper.
  One copy of each paper will be given to a classmate to critique for technical accuracy (see below).
  A second copy of each paper will be given to one of the Writing Fellows
• Wednesday, April 26  Receive comments from your classmate and provide comments to your assigned classmate. These comments should be in the form of a peer technical review of the paper, including general and specific comments on the experiments and their interpretation. The comments should not be more than a page, and conclude with a publication recommendation (publish as is, publish with minor revisions, publish with major revisions.) Receive written comments from your Writing Fellow.
• Week of April 26- May 3 – Meet with your Writing Fellows to receive verbal feedback on your draft.
• Wednesday, May 3:
  submit two copies of:
  • your final paper for grading by Prof. Ellis and Cindy
  • your April 19 draft
  • the comments on the draft made by the Writing Fellow
  • the comments on the draft made by your classmate
  • a note from you indicating how you addressed the comments you received in your revised essay.
  • a sheet describing your classmate's practice oral presentation (see below) with your suggestions and signed by your classmate.

To identify the classmate to whom you will give your draft, everyone in the class will be assigned a positive integer from 1 to N. You should give your April 19 draft to classmate N+1. (Note that this is modular arithmetic: N+1 for the last person is person number 1.) This classmate must also listen to and critique your practice oral presentation prior to your giving it to the class.
Instructions for the written portion of the project:
You should prepare a word-processed 5-page paper on your assigned topic, double spaced, and using no smaller size type than number 10 font. References should be identified, and you may include figures in the text.

You will be graded on a 60-point scale as follows:
• Research - 6 points maximum
  You are expected to use the campus resources. Websites should also be explored and cited.
• Relation to Chem 511 Material- 6 points maximum
  What are the relationships between your topic and the material we have covered? These should be woven into your text. Remember that your classmates are your audience.
• Content - 6 points maximum
  Have you adequately covered the essential information associated with your topic?
• Organization - 6 points maximum
  Does your paper have a well-defined storyline?
• Style - 6 points maximum
  Is your prose engaging and easy to follow?
• Editing - 6 points maximum
  Did you do a conscientious job editing your classmate's submission?
• Response to comments – 6 points maximum
  How effectively did you respond to the comments you received?
• Critique of classmate's practice oral presentation-6 points
  Did you do a conscientious job providing constructive feedback to your classmate?
• Oral Presentation - 6 points
  How well did you verbally summarize the key points of your topic?
• Feedback - 6 points
  You will have a sheet to provide feedback on your classmates' presentations.

Make sure you keep a disk and hard copy of your submission.
This is an experiment and we welcome your feedback on the process.

How to reference materials
• References to Journals
• References to Books