Overview:

The overall goal of the Virus Project is to produce two written documents about a virus that you have chosen to study. You will write a short scientific review article intended for other students and scientists and a public service announcement (PSA) that provides useful information about your virus to the public.

The scientific review article includes all the characteristics of your virus’s biology that we will have covered in class, including taxonomy, structure, replication, epidemiology and pathogenesis. It is written using scientific nomenclature and organized in an appropriate scientific style. In keeping with the tradition of scientific writing, the information is paraphrased rather than quoted and the document includes in-text citations and a Literature Cited section at the end of the document.

The type of PSA you write for a popular audience will depend on the virus you choose and its most important impact on society. This document will need to be easily understood by people who do not know as much about viruses as you do. You’ll need to decide what information is useful in educating the public about the virus so it most likely will not contain all of the information that is in your review. A major part of this assignment is deciding what information is needed and how to present it.

As I mentioned in class, I’ve developed a list of viruses that I think fit this project well. Some of them may be viruses with which you are not terribly familiar, but I want you to do some exploration before you pick a virus to study. Some of these viruses have an unusual replication strategy while others have interesting pathology and/or epidemiology. **If you would like to work on a virus that is not on the list, that's probably OK, but you must get my approval.**

In addition to the final Virus Project that will be due at the end of the semester, you will turn in a draft of one section of your review article. Assignment 7 is also part of this project.