**Observation Paper**

To write an observation paper you must first observe. For the past ten weeks, you have made observations of lima beans. You should have used all your senses to make the observations such as sight, smell, measurements. Now I want you to tie them together. How did the plants grow, what were their measurements, what were some of the set-backs, what issues did you encounter and how did you solve them, you should write about the total experience.

Your paper should include all the following:

**Your paper should be no less than two pages.**

**It must be typed, 12 font, spacing can be 1.5, and the only acceptable font types are Calibri, Times Roman, or Arial.**

**You will have to include your observations, in the correct order. You should not have any skipped days. On days you were absent, you should have written, no observations made-absent. Weekends and school days off, like holidays or teacher in-services are excused.**

**This is what your paper should include.**

**Introduction (25pts)**

* Begin your paper with an introduction of the subject. Talk about what you observed, where you observed it, when you observed it and any other information you can think to include. The introduction should set up the topic, giving the reader an overview of the subject of your observation and its context. So talk about what plants are and why they are important. Talk about the lima bean. What is it, what family does it belong to? Why are lima beans easy to study? Then talk about germination. This should be easy since you did this for your herb project. You can use that information in here. Then talked about this being a 10 week observation study on lima bean growth. After this, you can start your body. I’m not putting on limit on the paragraphs, but it should definitely be more than three.

**Body (40pts)**

* The body of your observation paper is the meat of your observations. Arrange your observation notes into a cohesive narrative. Begin at the beginning, but also make sure to tie related observations together. Like if you plant died, tie that with the observation that lead you to believe your plant was dead. Make connections. Your observation narrative should be linear and written in the present tense. Be as detailed as possible and remain objective. Make the reader feel like he was present in the moments that you experienced. So you’re taking the observations you made and writing about it in a paragraph way. Now you are explaining your observations. This is not a copy and paste of your observations, this is a connecting of the observations that you did. It should flow like a written paper, not a list. I should be able to visualize what you are observing. This should take most of your paper. If you only have half a page, you’re not writing enough on the observations you made. Remember, it was 10 weeks of observations.

**Summary (25pts)**

* Conclude your paper with a summary of what you saw. But also draw some conclusions about what you think about your observation. Explain what your observations mean to you and what they might mean to the reader. Tie everything together in a brief and clearly expressed paragraph.

**Editing (10 pts)**

* Edit your paper carefully. You should edit for content, grammar, clarity and spelling. Making sure that you have not repeated yourself is of particular importance when writing an observation paper. Read the paper over very carefully three or four times. Make sure that the paper makes sense and clearly expresses what you are trying to say.

This paper is **due on Monday 5-24-16 as soon as you get to class.** It should be **typed, printed, and your observation papers (in the correct order) stapled to it.** If you typed your observations, print them and include them. **This is a lab grade.**