



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Block: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Body Is An Ecosystem Project: Beneficial Microbes** **150 Points**

You are an employee at a publication entitled ***Microbe Monthly***. At most magazines, having your topic or story featured on the cover is highly coveted. The Board of Editors at ***Microbe Monthly*** is holding a contest for their staff members in which a team of writers and graphic designers with the best magazine cover design, story ideas, and pitch will each receive a salary bonus.

The theme for this anniversary edition of the magazine is “beneficial” microbes of the human body in honor of the Human Microbiome Project. In groups of 2, 3, or 4 students, you will select from a list of diverse microbiota that have close physiological relationships with humans and have demonstrated to have positive health effects. Your group will research your chosen microbe, design an eye-catching magazine cover, write 2 story idea summaries, and create a 2-5 minute pitch in which you will try to persuade the editors why your microbe should be the focus of the anniversary issue.

**Contest Rules****Magazine Cover** (see sample on the last page)

- Title of the magazine - “Microbe Monthly” - and date
- Image of your microbe
- TWO eye-catching story titles (these should be the titles of your story ideas – see below)
- Optional: tagline (underneath the magazine title), additional headlines or titles

You must use <http://bighugelabs.com/magazine.php> or other multimedia software to create a digital image of your magazine cover. It may not be hand drawn.

**Story Ideas**

You will write **two** 200-word summaries for stories about your microbe that would appear in this issue of the magazine. You will NOT be writing the full article, but instead a “pitch” for two possible stories.

*Possible story ideas: recent research or discoveries, effect on human health, changes in the prevalence, special cellular characteristics*

Remember – you are trying to convince the editors to choose YOUR microbe for the cover and feature articles...so make the story topics interesting, including the titles!

**Pitch Presentation**

You will design a 3-5 minute pitch (oral presentation) to present to the editorial board. You will be cut off if your group goes too long – so keep it concise and practice, practice, practice! This pitch can be in any format you choose. Some suggestions, but you are not limited to these:

- Short video
- Skit
- Flip Charts
- Microsoft PowerPoint
- Song (this is a pretty hip magazine)
- Any combination of the above!

**Every member of your group must participate in the presentation. Groups that do not include one or more members in the pitch portion of the project will not be eligible for the bonus.**

At the end of your presentation the Editor-in-Chief or other editors on the board (your classmates) may ask any question to any member of the group about your microbe. This means that every member must have thorough, working knowledge of your organism. This may include “negative” effects of your organism or relationships your organism has with other microbes in the body.

**You will have 3 weeks to complete this project.** We will only spend 3 days of class time dedicated to working on your projects in the library and computer lab. All other work must be completed outside of class – so exchange contact information! Progress checks will be completed approximately once per week.

**Checkpoint 1** – Show evidence of research Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Checkpoint 2** – Show rough drafts of story summaries Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Checkpoint 3** – Show progress on presentation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**What you must hand in on the project due date:**

1. Magazine cover (printed in color or as a digital file on a USB drive)
2. Two TYPED 200-word story summaries
3. Typed list of sources used in the project