



Chapter Writing Assignment

You will research an epidemic—a disease that has affected a large portion of a given population either in historical or present times—to explain this epidemic and illustrate its significance in a three- or four-page analytical report. This assignment requires you to complete Internet and library searches and to learn some biological terms and concepts, especially those related to viruses and immunology. You will analyze, organize, and synthesize information gathered from a variety of sources. Your report must include the following:

- An introductory paragraph
- A background paragraph that includes factual and/or historical information about the epidemic you choose
- Two or three body paragraphs that explain the epidemic and illustrate its significance
- A concluding paragraph
- At least two to four in-text citations
- An end-of-text reference page with references for all sources referred to as you wrote your report

To complete your analytical report for this chapter, you will follow the three-step writing process that is used throughout this text:

1. Gathering Information
2. Focusing and Organizing
3. Drafting, Revising, and Editing

Gathering Information



EXERCISE 1 Discussing and writing about disease

Gather information about epidemics by completing these steps:

1. With your instructor and classmates, select and discuss two or three diseases you have heard about. Here are some to consider:

AIDS	polio	dengue fever	mad cow disease
malaria	leptospirosis	yellow fever	Ebola virus
bird flu	SARS	bubonic plague	tuberculosis
anthrax	influenza	West Nile virus	monkeypox

2. In your discussion, try to answer some of these questions and take notes on points being discussed.
 - Where did the disease originate?
 - What are the symptoms of the disease?
 - What do you know about the cause(s) of the disease?
 - What effect(s) does the disease have on individuals and society?
 - What treatments, if any, exist?
3. Write for five minutes to explain what you learned or know about one of these diseases. Use some of the ideas discussed with your class.
4. Place your writing in your notebook or folder for future reference.



SPOTLIGHT ON WRITING SKILLS

Active Reading Strategies

To write about a disease—or any other topic you are assigned in college—you must read about the topic from a variety of sources. Active reading means practicing strategies that help you understand concepts. Active readers “mark up” their materials as they read. They underline, highlight, and write questions and notes in the margins. In particular, they:

- Focus on the main idea and controlling idea(s) in a reading passage
- Identify facts, statistics, explanations, and examples that support the main ideas
- Note keywords, topic-specific terminology, and definitions provided in the reading
- Note names of important people or groups involved in the topic
- Identify interesting or important historical background information
- Look for similarities and differences in various sources about the same topic

EXERCISE 2 Practicing active reading strategies

Read the following paragraphs, and use active reading strategies to identify, mark, and note important points, details, and terms. The first paragraph has been started for you.