

## Appendix (90 min. lecture handout example)

### Lecture Notes on Searching the Peer-Reviewed Scientific Literature

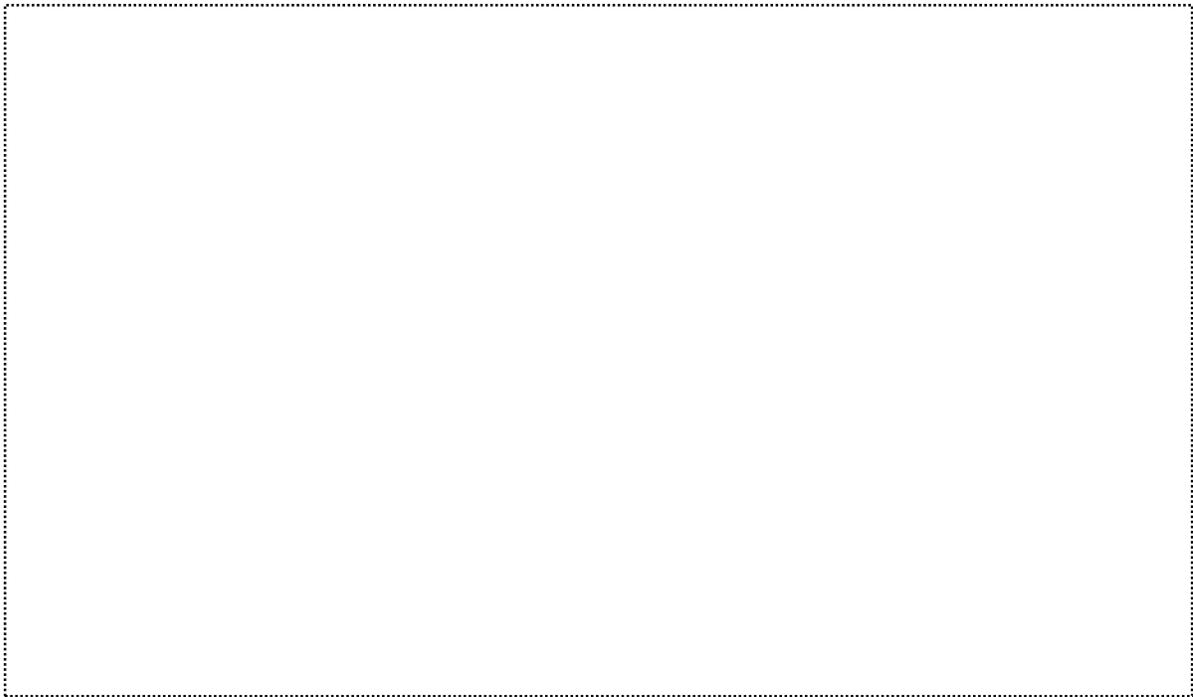
- 1- Select the best research topic from the ones below. *Hint:* Your research topic should not be too broad or narrow.
  - a) Are rhamnolipids (a type of biosurfactant) effective in the clean up of oil spills in Alberta?
  - b) Are biosurfactants effective in the clean up of oil spills?
  - c) What are some uses of biosurfactants?
  - d) None of the above
  
- 2- Name one source you can use for finding peer-reviewed articles on a topic.
  
- 3- Why do you need to break down your topic into its main concepts?
  
- 4- Suppose you need to search for the following words: **sustainable, sustainability, sustainably**. Write out your search strategy for obtaining articles that contain any of these 3 words in the title or abstract.
  
- 5- Which of the following search strategies will give you the most results?
  - a) (biosurfactant\* OR rhamnolipid\*) AND ((oil AND spill\*) OR (petroleum AND spill\*)) AND ("clean up" OR cleanup OR recovery OR bioremediat\*)
  - b) (biosurfactant\* OR rhamnolipid\*) AND ("oil spill\*" OR "petroleum spill\*") AND ("clean up" OR cleanup OR recovery OR bioremediat\*)
  - c) biosurfactant\* AND "oil spill\*" AND "clean up"
  - d) biosurfactant\* AND oil AND spill\* AND "clean up"
  
- 6- Which of the following search strategies will give you the least results?
  - a) (biosurfactant\* OR rhamnolipid\*) AND ((oil AND spill\*) OR (petroleum AND spill\*)) AND ("clean up" OR cleanup OR recovery OR bioremediat\*)
  - b) (biosurfactant\* OR rhamnolipid\*) AND ("oil spill\*" OR "petroleum spill\*") AND ("clean up" OR cleanup OR recovery OR bioremediat\*)
  - c) biosurfactant\* AND "oil spill\*" AND "clean up"
  - d) biosurfactant\* AND oil AND spill\* AND "clean up"

7- How can you increase the number of your search results?

8- How can you decrease the number of your search results?

9- How would you obtain books or journal articles that are not available at McGill?

Additional notes:



Contact **Giovanna** for questions about researching your topic, locating the complete text of references, or citing your sources.

In person: Schulich Library of Science & Engineering, room 207

By phone: 514-398-7340

Via email: [giovanna.badia@mcgill.ca](mailto:giovanna.badia@mcgill.ca)