

BMB 174 Midterm Instructions

The midterm is a 1-page essay in which you set the plan for your proposal by describing a topic of interest relevant to the core intellectual interest of the BMB program, that is, the interaction, structure and/or activity of macromolecules or molecular assemblies and how they contribute to cellular function. The topic must be out-of-field, i.e., it is a subject that you have not, are not, and will not be working on.

Identify and explain an outstanding question or a critical barrier to progress in a field of interest to you, analyze the current models/hypothesis and the evidence/arguments supporting each. If the proposal you envision includes method development, analyze the gap between current methods and the information that will be critical to progress in the field. Think about the midterm essay as a progenitor of the Significance section of your final proposal and remember that the goal of this section is to convince readers about the *Importance* and *Premise* of the overall objective of your proposal. Review the do's and don'ts about this section in the Proposal Writing handout.

The midterm is due May 3, at 6 pm. Send the midterm essay to bmb170c@gmail.com. Students will form discussion groups to provide constructive feedback on each other's proposal.