

## **Exercise 1: Biological System Observation**

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**Choose (2) biological systems to observe, document, and map. These can be of any scale, and relative to any organism, from a single cell, to the sapling structure of Aspens, to the varied embodied technics of a species of insect, to the chemical processes involved in pollen allergies.**

**For each system, create a mind-map that details the system, its functions, and its components. You can create the map in whatever way feels most comfortable to you, whether in software or on paper.**

Things to consider:

- The scope of your inquiry – how far in and out does your inquiry go? If you are looking at a single cell, it may not be appropriate to scale all the way up to the parent organism or all the way down to sub-atomic particles.
- Degrees of connection – how connected do things need to be to be “mapped” to each other? Overly complex maps can cease to convey information.
- Visual aids – do you want to convey everything through text, or using only images, or a combination? What about sounds or even textures?
- Finally, how might this inquiry lead to an abstracted form of output (art)?

**Prepare to present your work to the class in a 5-7 minute presentation.**

**Prepare for electronic transfer at the BEGINNING of class.**

Create a folder (yourlastname\_biomap) containing:

- 2 PDF files titled “yourlastname\_biomap1.pdf”, “yourlastname\_biomap2.pdf”.
- An artist statement detailing your approach to the 2 pieces.

Submit work by the start of class, on the due date - work submitted after the start of class will be considered late. Assignments turned in after the start of class or incomplete projects will not be accepted; in addition, work not labeled according to assignment specifications will be subject to grade adjustments -- see syllabus for breakdown of grades. Save your work as you will need your work (files, storyboards, etc.) and any documentation for your final portfolio.

**Refer to syllabus for the breakdown of assignment percentages and grades.**