For this paper, choose one of the five topics below. Read the assigned article, and then find another article that discusses the same topic (such as an article from a research journal or a chapter from a book). Write a paper that compares the information from the provided article with the information from the article that you found. You must also answer the additional questions for each topic. REMINDER: YOUR DISCUSSION SECTION FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 17 TO OCTOBER 21 WILL MEET IN POWELL 238 FOR A LIBRARY RESEARCH SESSION THAT WILL SPECIFICALLY HELP YOU FOR THIS PAPER.

TOPIC 1: Ancient diet


Assignment: Read this article, which discusses how human health today reflects our evolutionary history as a primate that eats many diverse things. Then find another article about the archaeology of human diets and nutrition. Compare and contrast the two articles and answer the following additional questions: What archaeological evidence, including bones, teeth, and tools, can we use to reconstruct ancient human diets? Are there some aspects of food and nutrition that are hard to reconstruct from archaeological evidence? You must put the Richards article in the bibliography along with the article that you found.

TOPIC 2: Archaeological preservation


Assignment: Read this article, which is about the conservation program undertaken by two Getty Museum researchers at the Egyptian tomb of Queen Nefertari. Then find another article in which archaeologists faced a difficult preservation issue. Compare and contrast the two articles and answer the following additional questions: Why was preservation important? Was there any controversy about the methods or reason for preservation? You must put the Agnew & Maekawa article in the bibliography along with the article that you found.

TOPIC 3: Extinctions caused by humans


Assignment: Read this article, which discusses the way in which the humans in New Zealand wiped out the large bird known as the Moa. Then find another article that discusses the impact of ancient humans on animal or plant populations. Compare and contrast the two articles and answer the following additional questions: Are there some types of plants or animals that are particularly likely to be killed off by humans? What is the archaeological evidence used for deciding whether humans killed off a species or whether the species suffered from some other problem such as climate change? You must put the Holdaway and Jacomb article in the bibliography along with the article that you found.

TOPIC 4: Chemical analysis of archaeological finds


Assignment: Read this article, which discusses how archaeologists used chemical analysis to test the residue from ancient pottery. Then find another article in which chemical analysis was utilized to learn something about the ancient past (hint: this can include the analysis of residue from stone tools or pottery). Compare and contrast the two articles and answer the following additional questions: What kinds of questions did the archaeologists ask? What were the chemical methods? Can you predict some future applications of this method? You must put the Spangenberg, Jacomet and Schibler article in the bibliography along with the article that you found.

TOPIC 5: Experimental archaeology


Assignment: Read this article, which shows how we can use ancient drawings and texts to figure out how Greeks rowed their boats and then tests the results by comparing it with modern rowing techniques. Then find another article on the way in which archaeologists have recreated some ancient activity to understand it better. Compare and contrast the two articles and answer the following additional questions: Why are experiments helpful in understanding archaeological finds? Why do archaeologists recreate technology instead of experimenting with ancient artifacts? You must put the Hale article in the bibliography along with the article that you found.
Although many scholars have suggested that Egyptian writing was an imitation of Mesopotamian writing, new discoveries showed that writing was developed locally and played “a major role in the life of the Egyptian state” (Connah 2005:350). By using direct quotes, you make use of the author’s eloquence and credit her/his words directly with quotation marks and a page number reference. You would use Connah because he is the one who wrote the chapter; Scarre is the person who organized the book.

The references should be in the following format (see Scarre textbook for more examples).

For an article from a scholarly journal:


For a chapter of a book: