

## **Sample Contract Outline, STEM**

[Student] has decided to research the evolution of the octopus. Her goal is to understand the origins of interesting characteristics of the octopus (their eyes have rectangular pupils, they have a beak with a drill, suckers, mini brains on each tentacle, etc.). She will write a 8-10 page paper. In the course of her research, we will discuss phylogenetic trees and the tools used by paleontologists to produce them to help propose relationships among species. We will meet on average 30 minutes per week either over Zoom or face-to-face to discuss these readings and her overall progress on the project, including a review of drafts as they develop. We will discuss RNA editing - a novel way to adapt to an environment without a change in the DNA. This is another interesting feature found in the octopus. [Student] will share her findings with our classmates during the evolution lectures.

Timeline:

- i. A list of resources is due 03/04.
- ii. An outline of the paper is due 03/11.
- iii. The first draft of the introduction is due 04/15.
- iv. The draft of the body (analysis) of the paper is due 05/06.
- v. The draft of the complete paper is due 05/29.
- vi. Complete paper is due 06/05