For this assignment you will revisit the critter that you created earlier this year, or you may make a new one. Regardless, consider the habitat where your critter lives and the factors that likely would lead to a successful reproductive strategy. Does your critter reproduce sexually or asexually? How do its internal organs and hormones work to allow for the production of offspring? Is it an r or K strategist? What behaviors does it use to obtain a mate? What is considered “appealing” to members of your creature’s species? How many offspring does it have at one time, and how often? Think about these questions as you write your essay. The details for each of the five required paragraphs are outlined below. You will be expected to complete some of these paragraphs as homework assignments, and then combine your writings for a TYPED final essay due by 11:59pm on Monday, March 16th. Please email your completed essay as either a Word doc or a Google doc to Ms. Gately at bcgately@gmail.com. You MUST include a picture of both your male and female critter AND ITS OFFSPRING! I want to see the cute baby critters ☺. The pictures may be attached to the email or handed in as a paper copy to Mr. Louis on Monday. I encourage you to attend office hours/email me!

**Essay Components:**

**Paragraph 1: Introduction (10 points)**

* As with any writing assignment, you should introduce the paper without saying “this paper is about...” Provide background information to the reader about reproduction, and introduce your critter (what it looks like, where it lives, etc.).

**Paragraph 2: Role of organs and hormones (10 points)**

* A description of the reproductive structures involved as well as the hormones and other factors that play into regulating your critter’s reproductive cycle.

**Paragraph 3: Mating behaviors (10 points)**

* An explanation of the mating behaviors your critter uses to ensure the production of offspring. What is considered “ideal” in the eyes of your critter? How do the males and females differ?

**Paragraph 4: Reproductive strategy (10 points)**

* An analysis of the advantages and disadvantages for the number of offspring produced, their approximate life spans, and the nurturing they receive. Is your critter an r or K strategist?

**Paragraph 5: Compare with human reproduction/Conclusion (10 points)**

* How does the organisms’ overall method of reproduction compare/contrast with human reproduction? Use this as a segue to wrap up your paper.

**Picture:** **Male, female & baby (15 points- 5 for each critter)**

* Create (by hand or with a computer software) a picture of your critter and its offspring. Your picture should include a labeled visual of the male, female, and an offspring.

Grading: A maximum of 10 points will be awarded to each section that fully answers all questions, explains all components, is well-written, and clearly proofread.
Points will be deducted if anything is lacking or missing, and for mechanical errors.