Week 1 Home work Assignment
(due at the start of class Sept 14th)

Part I: Perspectives on graduate study:
Answer the following questions.

1. What are your objectives for graduate school?
2. In your opinion, is the following statement true or false: “Graduate school is a constant test. It is similar to being dropped in the ocean and teaching yourself to swim.”
3. What was the relationship between faculty and students at your last school? What are you expecting here?

Part II: Choosing a Research Group and Advisor
Create a list of five questions that you think are the most important questions to ask when interviewing lab members and advisors when considering particular labs. Also, on another separate piece of paper write a short paragraph about what you expect in a research advisor (i.e.: your expectations, the type of involvement of the advisor, and/or the type of atmosphere of the lab (group)). Also include how you plan on choosing a research advisor and how you expect to choose a research project.

Part III: Choosing a research problem:
Read all of the following assignments and then answer the list questions

Reading Assignments:
“Graduate Research: a Guide for Students in the Sciences” R.V. Smith, 3rd Ed.
Sections from Chapter 3” Making Choices”
• Interdisciplinary versus disciplinary research p.25
• Research problem p.26

Section entitled “Choosing a Research Topic” from Chapter 4

On a separate piece of paper give short answers to the following questions:

1) How useful did you find the reading assignments?
2) Were there any questions, considerations or topics raised that you had not thought of?
3) If so, were any particularly relevant to you?

Also answer the following question on the Scenario from Chapter 4:
Choosing a Research Topic

Henry was fortunate in finding a respected faculty adviser in his field of psychology. He was so interested in his thesis research that after about a year he decided to broaden his topic. After another year, he adjusted it slightly to include another aspect of work suggested by his adviser. After 5 years, he saw that he had lost his focus; he could no longer describe the hypothesis that he was trying to test.

- Where did Henry—and his adviser—go wrong?
- What can he do now?