

Here's an example of what the formatting on your Niches paper should *look* like. **This is only to show you the format.** Obviously, your paper should not be about Martian animals, or so silly as this.

**Name of Animal:** This animal is called a samperiffy. It is a Martian, caterpillar-like creature, measuring about four feet in length, with a face that resembles your least-favorite relative.

**Physical Space:** The samperiffy is a subterranean creature, living 100 feet below the Martian surface throughout the northern hemisphere, in narrow, unstable caves carved out millions of years ago when underground water flowed freely on Mars.

**Trait:** The samperiffy have a hard, exterior shell that keeps them from being crushed by the frequent cave-ins that occur, which would otherwise smush their delicate insides.

**Diet:** They consume the school-related anxieties of humans on Earth. Whenever a human feels anxious about doing well in school, these thoughts travel by the speed of light to Mars, where the samperiffy find them delicious and filling. (Sorry, there is no relevant course terminology for this kind of diet.)

**Trait:** The samperiffy have a mesh-like covering over their mouths with openings that match the shape of school anxieties, allowing the semperiffy to catch and eat those anxieties without accidentally consuming other, poisonous anxieties of different shapes

and sizes (e.g., anxieties about one's love life, anxieties about the future of the earth, etc.)

**Active Time of Day:** This is a nocturnal creature, which makes sense, since too much daylight on the Martian surface degrades the anxieties before they can reach the samperiffy's underground home.

**Trait:** The samperiffy has an instinct to clean the mesh covering over its mouth when the temperature around it rises, which always occurs during the daytime. Feeding is not possible during this cleaning, or if the mesh is too clogged by other anxieties. Thanks to the instinct to do this cleaning when temperatures are warmest, the samperiffy maximizes its ability to actively feed during the nighttime hours.