Reading Response Paper #1 (max 5 points)

Format: about 500 words (2 full pages, double-spaced).

Submission: Upload your document file (.pdf) to Canvas and bring a hard copy to class.

Content: Sexual selection is one mechanism of evolution, through which certain traits can spread in an animal species. On this topic, read Ayala's article "Sexual Selection" and (1) **explain** this idea succinctly but adequately and (2) **discuss** one other animal trait that is not discussed in the article but might have evolved through sexual selection. In your **exposition**, make sure to include the following key elements:
1. Charles Darwin
2. Natural selection and its main problem,
3. How the idea of sexual selection solves the above problem,
4. How differential mating success leads to spread of certain traits,
5. Sexual dimorphism and how it relates to sexual selection, and
6. Two types of traits ("sex appeal" and competition advantage—give an example for each) and how they relate to sexual selection.

In your **discussion**, make sure to explain how the trait you discuss shows the characteristics of sexually selected traits.

Other Guidelines:
- Cite the source using both in-text citations and a list of source, using APA or MLA style.
- Write your response as self-contained paragraphs, capable of standing alone and being understood by someone who lacks knowledge about the course materials.
- Maintain unity, coherence, and cohesion within each paragraph.
- Proofread for grammar and mechanics so as to ensure remaining errors (if any) do not obstruct reader's understanding.

Grading Rubric

Name _____   Overall score _____ out of 5

Category		Deduction
Elements	**All elements** are adequately and clearly explained/discussed. The response does not contain off-topic content.	up to -5.0
	The paper has an accurate and appropriately formatted **in-text citation and a list of source**.	up to -1.5
Writing	Paragraph-level writing: Each paragraph has clear **topic sentence**, **unity, development**, and **coherence**.	up to -2.5
	Sentence-level writing: Text shows good control of **grammar** and **mechanics**. Errors do not obstruct reader's understanding.	