In the past, I have just assigned the project and answered questions regarding it. From past paper scores, it became clear I needed to interject some basic writing knowledge and perhaps show examples of citations and other parts of a good paper. So, in response I have created a Power Point presentation relating to this assignment and have posted this to D2L for their review and also usually go through the presentation with them. Hopefully this will improve learning and the scores on their papers.
RESULTS

Analysis of the effectiveness of the strategy:

The combination of additional discussion and viewing/learning of the Powerpoint presentation seemed to have improved scores on this disease paper assignment compared to earlier semesters. From this current semester, of 19 students turning a paper in, 12 of them had a score of 48 or higher out of a total of 50 points, or 63%. As a comparison, 2 years ago in the same class with the same assignment, I had a total of 17 students out of 32 with a score of 48 or higher, or 53%. This suggests to me that their written communication skills are improving and they are following suggestions and understanding basic paper mechanics.

Data Upload (optional):

Next Steps:

A good comparison would be to the second course in this sequence where they have the same assignment, although not all the students are the same. More emphasis on the posted powerpoint presentation and discussion in class would be important also.

Peer Consultation (optional):

n/a