

Research Report Checklist

Bio 341-L03: General Ecology Lab

Title

___describes report content concisely and adequately

Abstract

___less than 250 words

___includes background, ___hypotheses, ___treatments, and ___main results

___results are related to the goals &/or hypotheses

Introduction

___organized from general to specific

... addresses the following:

___what is the general ecological concept and ___why is it important in ecology?

___what is the specific phenomenon and ___why is it important in ecology?

___previous studies that are relevant to the concept or the phenomenon

___references are appropriate, ___paraphrased, and ___cited correctly **

___clearly explains the general goals of the study **

___clearly explains your hypothesis and the logical reasoning behind it **

___clearly introduces the specific prediction of your study **

Methods

___methods are explained in sufficient detail to allow another ecologist to repeat the study

___includes details on the study system (species, location, why appropriate for study)

___treatments are explained in detail

... explains procedures for ___data collection, ___replication, ___control of extraneous variables

___details procedures for data analysis

___explains how the analyses address the goals of the experiment **

___acknowledges any assumption(s)

___avoids extraneous detail

Results

___describes observed results and ___results of statistical analysis

___uses statistical analysis to interpret observed results

___clearly relates results to the goals of the experiment **

___results are accurate, ___appropriate units are used

___tables and/or figures report relevant information ___without redundancy

___tables and/or figures have useful, appropriately-positioned captions, and are ___cited correctly

___figures include labeled axes and legends

Discussion

___includes a summary of the main results **

___addresses the general goals and specific hypothesis and prediction presented at the end of the introduction **

___at least one aspect of the study is discussed intelligently and in depth **

___references are appropriate, ___paraphrased, and ___cited correctly **

___at least two limitations of the study are explained in detail **

Style

___uses correct grammar and spelling

___ideas are communicated clearly

___ideas are presented in a logical order, and ___similar ideas are kept together

___avoids unnecessary wordiness

___literature cited in format used by the journal *Ecology*

**** these points are especially important**