

## General Ecology Lab (BIO 341-L03) – Research Report Assignment

In this assignment, you will research, write and revise a scientific research report describing your research on phenotypic plasticity in leaf stomata. Your research report will follow the general format of scientific journal articles, and will include an abstract, introduction, materials and methods, results, and discussion, as well as a literature cited section and tables and figures. Reports will not be graded on length, but on content and clarity. Nevertheless, it is likely that at least eight pages of text (typed, double-spaced, not including literature cited and tables and figures) will be necessary to describe your work in sufficient depth and to include the necessary components of a scientific article.

**Research report draft:** This is not a “rough” draft, but a complete version of your report. It should contain all of the critical information that will be included in the final version of the report. A checklist is available on the course website to help you determine what each section should contain. ***Due Sept. 27 at beginning of lab; 50 points possible***

### **What to turn in:**

- Three copies of your research report – typed, double-spaced; include the report title, but do not include your name
- One cover sheet with your name and the title of your report
- The first page, including the abstract, of any articles you cite that were not included in your annotated bibliography.

### **Important guidelines:**

- Your report should cite at least 8 primary literature articles, which may include any or all of the 5 covered in your annotated bibliography. If you are not sure what constitutes primary literature, please consult me.
- The literature cited section should follow the format used by the journal *Ecology*.
- Any tables and figures should be included at the end of the report, with properly labeled axes and informative captions. Any figures and tables included should be referred to within the text.
- Although you collected data in cooperation with a partner, your report should be your own.
- Your grade will be based on the items detailed on the checklist.
- Additional guidelines for writing research reports are on e-reserves, which you can access via the course website (email me if you don't remember the password).

**Peer reviews:** On Sept. 27, you will receive anonymous versions of the research reports of two of your peers. You will provide written feedback on each of these reports. Your peers will then be able to use your feedback to help strengthen their reports, and you will be able to use the peer reviews of your report to help you revise and improve your own report. Specific details about what the peer review should cover will be given in lab. You will turn in two anonymous copies of each peer review, plus one separate sheet with your name and the titles of the reports that you reviewed. ***Due Oct. 4 at the beginning of lab; 30 points possible, 15 for each of two peer reviews.***