

Lab Report Format – APES Ecological Study

The Ecological Study involves the research and development of a scientific experiment pertaining to our wetland. You will not actually carry out the experiment, and only write the introduction, methods and materials, and works cited. Your experiment must have a specific purpose: “The effect of _____ on _____. Topics must first be approved, and there may be no repeat topics among any students. The report must have a proper hypothesis: “If...then...” and the report must also include clearly identified dependent variable(s), independent variable(s), and control(s). All the intricacies of a report such as this cannot be contained on just this one page. Further instructions and clarifications will be given in class verbally and on the front board. Please use the “free proofreading” offered to ensure success.

Introduction

One very important part of the introduction section is outlining the purpose of the experiment as concisely as possible. Stating the question or questions that are to be answered by the experiment can easily be introduced with the phrase "In this experiment" or "In this study" and then explaining from there. These statements should be as specific as possible to demonstrate a clear understanding of the experiment. The purpose of these statements is to explain what the experiment does and how the results will be interpreted. Once the question that the experiment attempts to answer has been stated, the background information needs to be given to show why the question was asked. Background information should include, but is not limited to, the importance of wetlands and/or forests along with the importance of the specific study performed. Clearly identify the dependent and independent variables along with the controls. You should end with a clear hypothesis in the form of an “if/then” statement.

Materials and Methods

The Materials and Methods section is a vital component of any formal lab report. This section of the report gives a detailed account of the procedure that was followed in completing the experiment(s) discussed in the report. Such an account is very important, not only so that the reader has a clear understanding of the experiment, but a well-written Materials and Methods section also serves as a set of instructions for anyone desiring to replicate the study in the future. Considering the importance of "reproducible results" in science, it is quite obvious why this second application is so vital.

Works Cited

The last part of a report can often be the most tedious, but it need not be the most difficult. The literature-cited portion of your paper is very important because it enables either you or another reader to go back and obtain the sources that you used in preparing your report. It also allows the reader to obtain additional information if he or she wants to find out about a certain topic you addressed. Another important reason for having a literature cited page is that it allows anyone who is unsure of your data to go back and verify that you reported everything correctly, thus eliminating any uncertainty. Be sure to cite in APA format. Wikipedia is NOT an acceptable source due to its unreliability.

The Spark Notes Version...

Introduction (50 pts) - background information on the study and all of its components, purpose of the study, and hypothesis (should be three to five pages typed, double-spaced, 12 point font)

Methods and Materials (40 pts) - a list of materials accompanied by a specific sequence of numbered methods that someone unfamiliar with the study could easily follow (length varies with study)

Works Cited (10 pts) - APA format, minimum eight (8) sources – NO WIKIPEDIA!

Each section should be properly labeled. No personal pronouns should be used anywhere in the paper. No hard copy will be submitted.

Eco Studies must be typed and submitted to www.turnitin.com. Turnitin is an internet-based program that automatically checks for plagiarism against internet and print sources along with previously submitted papers (ie. papers from previous years). If you do not already have an account, you will have to create one by selecting “New Users” at the top of the page. Submission is accomplished by uploading a document or copying and pasting. **Any papers with a plagiarism score above 20% will receive a 0% F** (about 10% is common due to quotations, methodology, etc.). Papers may be resubmitted up until the due date should you discover errors or a high plagiarism score. This means no excuses for a score above 20%.

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Fall 2018

Class ID: 18245593

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Final Paper must be submitted by Sunday, October 7th by 11:59 PM

(reminder - late work is graded at 50% of the original grade)