

Introduction and Methods Writing Guide

- Formatting:
 - Title: The title should be double-spaced and centered on the paper. Do not put it in quotation marks or bold face and do not use all capital letters.
 - Running head in upper right-hand corner of every page. Include last name and page number.
 - Double spaced, 1" margins on all sides
 - Font is Times New Roman or Arial in 12 point size.
 - Subheadings are centered, using the same font type and size as the rest of the paper
- Introduction
 - State the research question
 - Related biology information...
 - ...about the structure/function of entity being studied
 - ...about the manipulated variable
 - ...about the responding variable
 - What is already known about the MV/RV relationship? What are current studies on this topic looking at?
 - Explain how you will address the problem and how you plan to find a solution (this is in general, not a detailed methodology)
 - State the hypothesis
- Methods
 - Narrative form
 - Enough detail so that another individual would have not questions if replicating the experiment
 - Where did the field work occur?
 - How was the manipulated variable be safety and ethically varied
 - How data was measured, recorded and observed
 - How enough trials were completed
 - Why is this methodology used? Why this way and not another way?
 - Limitations of the experimental design. Limitations of the measurement tools/techniques.
 - Explain how information from sources guided your process
- Works cited
 - Double spaced
 - First line of each entry is left justified and any following lines with a hanging indent
 - Listed in alphabetical order by authors last name or first word in title