

ESC 452

Fall 2003

## Guidelines for Preparing Research Report

This document is to help you prepare your written report based on your research project. The report is due on December 10 and after your oral presentation on either December 1 or 8

### How to Write the Paper

Your paper should be concise and well organized. It would be a good idea to look at a few copies of the *Condor* to see the style. The paper should have the following parts: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion and literature Cited.

The Introduction puts your study into the proper context. You need not actually have a heading labeled "Introduction". Introductions usually try to describe the purpose of the report. This is also the location where you state **specific objectives** of your literature research. By the time the reader has finished reading your Introduction, he or she has a good idea what your paper is about and its significance.

The Methods section describes what field and analytical approaches you used to conduct the study and analyze the data. Be as specific as you can here.

The Results will be the main body of your paper and should be the nuts and bolts of what you found. Use subheadings to distinguish the various topics you discuss.

The Discussion section is where you interpret your results and compare them with what others have found. This draws appropriate conclusions from your results and should also refer back to your objectives. At the end of the Discussion, you should draw some conclusions in which you state what you want the reader to take away from your study. This is usually a broad, interpretative statement of what the paper has shown.

The Literature Cited section includes a complete citation for every reference in the article. It should not include any publication not cited somewhere in the body of the article. There is much variation in the format of the literature cited section of journals. When citing a reference, it should be done this way: " Jones (1986) found that ..." or " Similar observations have been made by others ( Jones 1986); Smith and Robinson

1987)". **Do not** use footnotes unless it is in a table. In your **Literature Cited** section, use a style such as this:

Jones, E.J. 2001. The winter diet of the Blue Grouse in the Cascade Range. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 51: 187-195.

The references should be listed alphabetically. If there is more than one reference by one author, list the earliest one first. If you cite more than one paper by an author that were published during the same year, cite them like: Jones 1986a or 1986b and list the years this way in the Literature Cited section.

The dominant characteristic of research report or journal writing is conciseness. Everything is said in as little space as possible. With rare exceptions, it is said only once. This differs somewhat from other kinds of writing such as press releases, business letters, fiction and magazines.

A natural history report should cover various aspects of the biology and ecology of a particular wildlife species. This report should include such things as its classification distribution (historical and present) normal habitat occupied reproduction population information conservation

For this report, you should use a variety of sources **but you can use only three internet sources and no encyclopedias**. There are good references (books and journals) in the Allen Library as well as the Forest Resources Library in the basement of Bloedel Hall. **You should have at least one journal article in your Literature Cited section that you have used**. Play like you are detective looking for the elusive biology of an animal! You should use at least 5 references.

Some things to note:

Scientific name. After you give the common name of an animal or plant the first time, provide the scientific name in parentheses and either underline it or use italics: e.g. (Homo sapiens) or (*Homo sapiens*).

My intent here is to get you somewhat familiar with writing up the results of field research into a standard format. Length of the paper should be at least 5 pages, typed, and either double-spaced or 1.5 spaces. **Paper is due December 10. Points will be deducted for late papers.**