RESEARCH PAPER GUIDELINES

1. STYLE
   a. Write in a clear, logical and concise style. Communicate your findings at the level of those who are familiar with the material covered in our Biological Sciences Core curriculum.

   b. The paper in TOTAL (abstract, text sections, illustrations, acknowledgments, and literature cited) may not exceed 5 typewritten or be less than 3 typewritten pages. Papers less than 3 pages or exceeding 5 pages will not be accepted. Utilize the space on each page in its entirety – continue text or graphs/figures rather than starting a new page for a new section. Use Times New Roman, 12-point font. Leave one-inch margins on all sides as well as top and bottom. Type the abstract, literature cited, acknowledgments and figure legends single-spaced. Text is double-spaced. Do not use footnotes.

   c. Make certain that the paper is free of typographical, spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors.

2. ABSTRACTS
   An abstract is an accurate and informative summary of a research project. In the case of a Research paper, it allows the reader to identify the essentials of the work, including: 1) the research question, 2) the methodology, 3) the results, 4) the conclusions. Each of these aspects of the paper should be presented in a sentence or two and the entire abstract should be presented succinctly in a single paragraph as a part of your final paper and poster. Although the abstract appears as the first section of your paper, it should be written last so you can include the necessary information.

   a. Begin with a topic sentence that states the research question.

   b. Avoid jargon and abbreviations; your work may be read by people who may be unfamiliar with the details of the research area in which you have been working.

   c. Type your abstract single-spaced in Times New Roman, 12-point font, .3 indent, one-inch margins.

   d. Abstract should contain no more than 250 words.

3. ILLUSTRATIONS AND TABLES
   Place the text describing the graphs or tables on the same page as the figure if possible. Figure legends go below the figures, table legends go above tables. Use space as efficiently as possible.

4. PAGE NUMBERS
   Page numbers should be centered on the bottom of each page. Begin numbering on page 2.

5. ORGANIZATION OF THE PAPER
   a. The title of the paper should be typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font, ALL CAPITAL LETTERS, BOLD TYPE, CENTERED at the top of the first page. The title should be a short, clear statement of what is interesting in your paper. "RESEARCH ON PINE TREES" would be too general, for example. If your title is two lines long, do not leave a space in between line #1 and line #2. Then type author name (your name, last name first), the department in which the work was done, the Faculty of Record’s name, and the abstract on that page according to the required format. Remember, the abstract is single-spaced.
b. Start your introduction on that same page **without** typing the section heading, "Introduction". The introduction should establish why you are doing your research.

c. These section headings should be typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font, capital letters, bold type, left-justified:

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**
**RESULTS**
**DISCUSSION**
**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**
**LITERATURE CITED**

d. See writing references for examples of scientific paper style and organization.

**REFERENCE TEXTS**
Students are strongly encouraged to refer frequently to the recommended texts for this paper.

**Recommended Text:**

**Additional Reference Cited:**