

Florida International University
Department of Biological Sciences

Scoring rubric for written work

Content and Critical Thinking

? Scientific reasoning and problem solving

- [4] Explains clearly, thoroughly and concisely how scientific reasoning can be used to answer a biological question.
- [3] Explains only in a general way how scientific reasoning can be used to answer a biological question.
- [2] Has difficulty explaining how scientific reasoning can be used to answer a biological question.
- [1] Unable to explain how scientific reasoning is applied to biological questions.
Cannot identify problems or approaches for solution.

? Content

- [4] Introduction is relevant and thorough. Significance of topic is explained, content is focused. Conclusions are well supported.
- [3] Introduction is relevant, but limited. Significance of topic is mentioned, content occasionally unfocused. Conclusions are mostly supported.
- [2] Introduction sketchy or unrelated, with little other content, which tends to digress. Conclusions are poorly supported.
- [1] No introduction, or exclusively introductory content. Does not address the significance of topic, content is unfocused. Conclusions are either not offered or unsupported.

? Logical organization

- [4] Presents information in logical sequence, at an appropriate level that holds reader interest.
- [3] Presents information in a mostly logical sequence, at an appropriate level that a general reader can follow.
- [2] Presentation of information is somewhat disjointed. Some material is not relevant to the topic.
- [1] Information is not presented logically or is presented at an inappropriate level.
Material is not related to the topic.

? Use of biological terms and concepts

- [4] Excellent use of biological terminology and concepts.
- [3] Generally correct application of biological terminology and concepts.
- [2] Some incorrect applications of biological terminology and limited understanding of biological concepts.
- [1] Incorrect use of biological terminology, poor understanding of biological concepts.

? Use of references

- [4] All references are correctly cited in the body of the paper and in the reference list.
Most references are to the primary literature.
- [3] Most references are correctly cited in the body of the paper and in the reference list.
Many references are to the primary literature.
- [2] Some references are correctly cited in the body of the paper and in the reference list.
Uses few references to the primary literature.
- [1] Either no citations, no reference list, or all references are entirely from secondary or non-scientific literature sources.

Presentation

? Mechanics

- [4] Proper sentence structure and word usage. No grammatical errors or misspellings.
- [3] Generally proper sentence structure and word usage. Few grammatical errors and misspellings.
- [2] Some difficulty with sentence structure and word usage. More than a few grammatical errors and misspellings.
- [1] Incorrect sentence structure and word usage. Many grammatical errors and misspellings.

? Format

- [4] Conforms to assignment format guidelines with regard to length, margins, font size, binding, and figures (if required).
- [3] Mostly conforms to assignment format guidelines.
- [2] Conforms somewhat to assignment format guidelines.
- [1] Too short or too long. Does not conform to assignment guidelines.