

**Departmental Writing Rubric**

	SCORE	0	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Title Page</b>	Title (x pts)	There is no title	The title is <u>inappropriate or inaccurate</u>	The title is appropriate and accurate - but <u>vague</u>	The title is appropriate, accurate, and clear – but <u>not informative</u>	The title is appropriate, accurate, clear, and informative, but <u>verbose</u>	The title is appropriate, accurate, clear, informative, and concise
	Additional Components (x pts)	There is no title page or it contains nothing but a title	The title page does not contain all relevant components <u>and</u> includes superfluous material	The title page does not contain all relevant components <u>or</u> includes superfluous material	The title page contains all relevant components and does not contain superfluous material - but <u>contains formatting errors</u>	The title page contains all relevant components and does not contain superfluous material – but the <u>formatting is not entirely correct</u>	The title page contains all relevant components (i.e., name, school affiliation, running head), does not contain superfluous material (i.e., course info, instructor name, etc.), <u>and is formatted correctly</u>
<b>Abstract</b>	Study Premise (x pts)	The abstract does not discuss the premise of the study	The description of the premise for the study is <u>inaccurate or inappropriate</u>	The description of the premise for the study is accurate – but <u>insufficient</u>	The description of the premise for the study is accurate and sufficient – but <u>unclear</u>	The description of the premise for the study is accurate, sufficient, and clear – but <u>verbose</u>	The description of the premise for the study is accurate, sufficient, clear, <u>and concise</u>
	Summary of Methodology (x pts)	The abstract does not describe the methodology used in the study	The description of the methodology is <u>inaccurate</u>	The description of the methodology is accurate – but <u>insufficient</u>	The description of the methodology is accurate and sufficient – but <u>unclear</u>	The description of the methodology is accurate, sufficient, and clear – but <u>verbose</u>	The description of the methodology is accurate, sufficient, clear, <u>and concise</u>
	Description of Primary Results (x pts)	The abstract does not describe the primary results of the study	The description of the primary results is <u>inaccurate</u>	The description of the primary results is accurate – but <u>insufficient</u>	The description of the primary results is accurate and sufficient – but <u>unclear</u>	The description of the primary results is accurate, sufficient, and clear – but <u>verbose</u>	The description of the primary results is accurate, sufficient, clear, <u>and concise</u>
	Interpretation of Results (x pts)	The abstract does not include an interpretation of the results	The interpretation of the results is <u>illogical or inaccurate</u>	The interpretation of the results is logical and accurate – but <u>inadequate</u>	The interpretation of the results is logical, accurate, and adequate – but <u>unclear</u>	The interpretation of the results is logical, accurate, adequate, and clear – but <u>verbose</u>	The interpretation of the results is logical, accurate, adequate, clear, <u>and concise</u>
<b>Hypothesis and Problem</b>	Scientific Problem (x pts)	The introduction does not describe the scientific problem	The description of the scientific problem is <u>inappropriate or inaccurate</u>	The description of the scientific problem is accurate – but <u>not relevant to the topic</u>	The description of the scientific problem is accurate, and relevant – but <u>inadequate</u>	The description of the scientific problem is accurate, relevant, and adequate - but <u>unclear</u>	The description of the scientific problem is accurate, relevant, adequate, <u>and clear</u>
	Background (x pts)	The introduction provides little to no background information	The background information is <u>irrelevant or inaccurate</u>	The background information is relevant and accurate - but <u>insufficient</u>	The background information is relevant, accurate, and sufficient - but <u>does not provide clear justification for the experiment</u>	The background information is relevant, accurate, sufficient, and provides a clear justification for the experiment – but <u>does not provide a clear connection to the broader issue</u>	The background information is relevant, accurate, and sufficient - and provides both a clear justification for the experiment and a clear connection to the broader issue
	Goal(s)/Aims(s) (x pts)	The introduction does not describe the goal/aim of the project	The goal/aim of the project is <u>illogical or unreasonable</u>	The goal/aim of the project is logical and reasonable – but <u>does not relate well to the current project</u>	The goal/aim of the project is logical, reasonable, and related – but <u>insufficient</u>	The goal/aim of the project is logical, reasonable, related, and sufficient – but <u>unclear</u>	The goal/aim of the project is logical, reasonable, related, sufficient, <u>and clear</u>
	Hypothesis (x pts)	The introduction does not describe the hypothesis	The hypothesis is inferred, but <u>never explicitly stated</u>	The hypothesis is explicitly stated – but <u>illogical or inaccurate</u>	The hypothesis is explicit, logical, and accurate – but <u>unclear</u>	The hypothesis is explicit, logical, accurate, and clear - but <u>does not follow logically from the literature review</u>	The hypothesis is explicit, logical, accurate, and clear - <u>and follows logically from the literature review</u>
<b>Methods</b>	Participants/ Subjects (x pts)	The methods do not include a description of the participants/subjects	The description of the participants/ subjects is mostly <u>inaccurate</u>	The description of the participants/ subjects is mostly accurate – but <u>largely incomplete</u>	The description of the participants/ subjects is mostly accurate – but <u>not entirely complete</u>	The description of the participants/ subjects is accurate and complete – but <u>unclear or verbose</u>	The description of the participants/ subjects is accurate, complete, <u>clear, and concise</u>
	Materials (x pts)	The methods do not include a description of the materials	The description of the materials is mostly <u>inaccurate</u>	The description of the materials is mostly accurate – but <u>largely incomplete</u>	The description of the materials is mostly accurate – but <u>not entirely complete</u>	The description of the materials is accurate and complete – but <u>unclear or verbose</u>	The description of the materials is accurate, complete, <u>clear, and concise</u>

Methods	Procedure (x pts)	The methods do not include a description of the procedure	The description of the procedure is mostly <u>inaccurate or inappropriate</u>	The description of the procedure is mostly accurate and appropriate – but <u>largely incomplete</u>	The description of the procedure is mostly accurate and appropriate – but <u>not entirely complete</u>	The description of the procedure is accurate, appropriate, and complete – but <u>unclear or verbose</u>	The description of the procedure is accurate, appropriate, complete, <u>clear</u> , and <u>concise</u>
	Statistical analyses (x pts)	The methods do not include a description of the statistical analyses	The description of the statistics is mostly <u>inaccurate or inappropriate</u>	The description of the statistics is mostly accurate and appropriate – but <u>largely incomplete</u>	The description of the statistics is mostly accurate and appropriate – but <u>not entirely complete</u>	The description of the statistics is accurate, appropriate, and complete – but <u>unclear or verbose</u>	The description of the statistics is accurate, appropriate, complete, <u>clear</u> , and <u>concise</u>
Results	Presentation (x pts)	The results are not presented	The presentation of the results is mostly <u>inaccurate, misleading, or inappropriate</u>	The presentation of the results is mostly accurate and appropriate – but <u>incomplete</u>	The presentation of the results is mostly accurate, appropriate and complete– but <u>not clear</u>	The presentation of the results is accurate, appropriate, complete, and clear – but does <u>not include specific comparisons between groups</u>	The presentation of the results is accurate, appropriate, complete, clear and <u>includes specific comparisons between groups</u> (e.g., “Amphetamine-treated rats weighed less than saline-treated rats.”)
	Data (x pts)	The results do not include data	The presentation of the data is mostly <u>inaccurate or inappropriate</u>	The presentation of the data is mostly accurate and appropriate – but <u>largely incomplete</u>	The presentation of the data is mostly accurate and appropriate – but <u>not entirely complete</u>	The presentation of the data is accurate, appropriate, and complete - but <u>does not include all relevant information</u> (e.g., SEM, etc.)	The presentation of the data is accurate, appropriate, complete, and <u>includes all relevant information</u> (e.g., SEM, etc.)
	Statistics (x pts)	The results do not include statistics	The presentation of the statistics is mostly <u>inaccurate or inappropriate</u>	The presentation of the statistics is mostly accurate and appropriate – but <u>largely incomplete</u>	The presentation of the statistics is mostly accurate and appropriate – but <u>not entirely complete</u>	The presentation of the statistics is accurate, appropriate, and complete - but <u>omits important information</u> (e.g., test value, mean, SEM, p value, etc.) or <u>does not follow APA format</u>	The presentation of the statistics is accurate, appropriate, complete, includes all relevant information, and follows APA format
	Interpretation of statistics (x pts)	The results do not include an interpretation of the statistics (i.e., statistical significance, etc.)	The interpretation of the statistics is <u>inaccurate, misleading, or inappropriate</u>	The interpretation of the statistics is accurate but <u>incomplete</u>	The interpretation of the statistics is accurate and complete – but <u>unclear</u>	The interpretation of the statistics is accurate, complete, and clear, but <u>verbose</u>	The interpretation of the statistics (i.e., statistical significance) is accurate, complete, clear, and <u>concise</u>
	Relation between data and hypothesis (x pts)	The results do not describe the relationship between the data and the hypothesis	The relationship between the data and the hypothesis is <u>inaccurate or misleading</u>	The relationship between the data and the hypothesis is mostly accurate – but <u>incomplete</u>	The relationship between the data and the hypothesis is accurate and complete – but <u>unclear</u>	The relationship between the data and the hypothesis is accurate, complete, and clear – but <u>overstated</u>	The relationship between the data and the hypothesis is accurate, complete, clear – and <u>appropriate</u>
Discussion	Interpretation (x pts)	The discussion does not include an interpretation of the data	The interpretation of the data is <u>illogical, inaccurate, or inappropriate</u>	The interpretation of the data is logical and accurate – but <u>incomplete</u>	The interpretation of the data is logical, accurate, and complete – but <u>not well supported by the literature</u>	The interpretation of the data is logical, accurate, complete, and well supported by the literature - but <u>unclear</u>	The interpretation of the data is logical, accurate, complete, well-supported by the literature, and <u>clear</u>
	Conclusions (x pts)	The discussion does not include conclusions	The conclusions are <u>illogical, inaccurate, or inappropriate</u>	The conclusions are logical and accurate – but <u>incomplete or unclear</u>	The conclusions are logical, accurate, complete, and clear – but <u>are not based on the data presented</u>	The conclusions are logical, accurate, complete, clear, and based on the data presented, - but <u>are not supported by the literature</u>	The conclusions are logical, accurate, complete, clear, based on the data presented and <u>supported by the literature</u>
	Relevance (x pts)	There is no discussion of the relevance of the conclusions to the broader context	The discussion regarding the relevance of the conclusions is <u>illogical, inaccurate, or inappropriate</u>	The discussion regarding the relevance of the conclusions is logical and accurate – but <u>incomplete</u>	The discussion regarding the relevance of the conclusions is logical, accurate and complete – but <u>unclear</u>	The discussion regarding the relevance of the conclusions is logical, accurate, complete and clear – but <u>far-fetched or unreasonable</u>	The discussion regarding the relevance of the conclusions to the broader context is logical, accurate, complete, clear and <u>reasonable</u>
	Future Work (x pts)	The discussion does not include a proposal for future studies	The proposed studies are <u>illogical or inappropriate</u>	The proposed studies are logical and appropriate – but <u>unreasonable</u>	The proposed studies are logical, appropriate, and reasonable – but <u>justification for the studies is not provided</u>	The proposed studies are logical, appropriate, reasonable and justified – but <u>justification for these studies is unclear</u>	The proposed studies are logical, appropriate, reasonable and <u>well justified</u>

Citations and References	Completeness (x pts)	Does not include citations and references	Most relevant citations and references are <u>missing</u>	Many relevant citations and references are <u>missing</u>	Several relevant citations and references are <u>missing</u>	Few relevant citations and references are <u>missing</u>	All relevant citations and references are <u>included</u>
	Suitability (x pts)	Does not include citations and references	All citations and references are <u>inappropriate or irrelevant</u>	Many citations and/or references are <u>inappropriate or irrelevant</u>	Several citations and/or references are <u>inappropriate or irrelevant</u>	Few citations and/or references are <u>inappropriate or irrelevant</u>	All citations and/or references are <u>appropriate and relevant</u>
	Format (x pts)	Does not include citations and references	Citation and reference format is <u>entirely incorrect</u>	Citation and reference format is <u>mostly incorrect</u>	Citation and reference format is <u>partially incorrect</u>	All citations and references are formatted correctly - but <u>references are made to works that are not cited in the paper</u>	All citations and references are formatted correctly, and references are made only to works that are cited in the paper
Figures	Suitability (pts)	Does not include figures	All figures are <u>inappropriate or unnecessary</u>	Many figures are <u>inappropriate or unnecessary</u>	Some figures are <u>inappropriate or unnecessary</u>	All figures are appropriate - but a few are <u>unnecessary</u>	All figures are <u>appropriate and necessary</u>
	Clarity (pts)	Does not include figures	Figures are not labeled	Figures are <u>not completely labeled or are labeled inappropriately</u>	Figures are completely labeled and labels are appropriate - but <u>unclear</u>	Figures are completely labeled and labels are appropriate and clear – but <u>figures are not referred to in the text or figures are not numbered in the order in which they appear in the text</u>	Figures are completely labeled and labels are appropriate and clear. Figures are referred to in the text and are numbered in the order in which they appear in the text
	Captions (pts)	Does not include figure captions	Figure captions are <u>inappropriate or inaccurate</u>	Figure captions are appropriate and accurate, but <u>insufficient</u>	Figure captions are appropriate, accurate, and sufficient - but <u>unclear</u>	Figure captions are appropriate, accurate, sufficient, and clear - but <u>verbose</u>	Figure captions are appropriate, accurate, sufficient, clear and concise
Writing	Format (pts)		The <u>entire paper is formatted incorrectly</u>	Most of the paper is <u>formatted incorrectly</u>	Some of the paper is <u>formatted incorrectly</u>	Most of the paper is <u>formatted correctly</u>	The <u>entire paper is formatted correctly</u>
	Grammar (pts)		Grammatical errors are common throughout the entire paper	Grammatical errors appear throughout much of the paper	Grammatical errors appear in some portion of the paper	Grammatical errors are rare	The paper is entirely free of grammatical errors
	Clarity (pts)		Thoughts and ideas are difficult to follow throughout the entire paper	Thoughts and ideas are somewhat organized and expressed somewhat clearly within sentences, but train of thought is difficult to follow within or between paragraphs	Thoughts and ideas are organized and expressed clearly within sentences, but train of thought is difficult to follow within or between paragraphs	Thoughts and ideas are organized and expressed clearly within sentences and within paragraphs, but the train of thought is not maintained between paragraphs	Ideas are organized and expressed clearly within sentences and the train of thought is maintained both within paragraphs and between paragraphs