

**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.