

Conservation Biology Technical Report Writing
Checklist for Peer Review
(from the style guide provided by the journal *Conservation Biology*)

Entire Assignment (____ / 2 pts.)

- _____ Follows instructions provided on Essay Two handout
- _____ Paper consists of Title and labelled sections: Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion (no abstract or Acknowledgements sections). Tables and/or Figures are not required. If included, they count for the page limit.
- _____ Literature Cited on separate page

- _____ Use of active voice
- _____ Considerate use of class vocabulary
- _____ Avoids slang and phrases that could be replaced with class vocabulary
- _____ Omit unnecessary detail
- _____ Avoids mistakes listed on the Moodle handout "Joel's Guide to Science Writing"
- _____ Single well-developed idea per paragraph
- _____ American English grammar and spelling followed
- _____ All measurements written in metric units only

Title (____ / 1 pts.)

- _____ Title is clear, concise and informative
- _____ Title is not overly dramatic
- _____ Title is not a complete sentence or a question, and doesn't use a colon

Introduction (____ / 3 pts.)

- _____ Organism's habitat, distribution and taxonomy is briefly listed (1 sentence)
- _____ Organism's current population status, if known, is given with citation.
- _____ Threat(s) to the organism's population(s), if known, is given with citation.
- _____ Clear, concise listing of the problem (what could be solved by vortex)
- _____ Clear, concise listing of the hypothesis (such as variable X more of a threat than variable Y)
- _____ Omits unnecessary detail

Materials and Methods (____ / 1 pts.)

- _____ Follows example paragraphs provided by Joel on Moodle
- _____ Clearly describes any Vortex settings that were changed between scenarios
- _____ Gives citations for where population variables came from
- _____ Does give lengthy explanations for why population variables were chosen
- _____ Does not list any results

Results (____ / 2 pts.)

- _____ Describes but does not interpret observations
- _____ Emphasizes important patterns & trends
- _____ Tables avoided if there are few numerical results, table used if many numbers found

- _____ If table or figure used, it is referred to in the text in style of *Conservation Biology*
- _____ Tables and figures used only if they explain things more clearly than 1-2 sentences could
- _____ If figures/tables used, they are neatly drawn with the same justification and format as found in *Conservation Biology* articles
- _____ If figures/tables used, each has a descriptive but concise caption as a full sentence.

Discussion (____ / 4 pts.)

- _____ Single sentence that broadly reviews both problem and main results.
- _____ Hypothesis is compared with numerical results.
- _____ Inferences made about population vulnerability are based on a combination of results + literature
- _____ Suggest which variables should be most important to conservation biologists
- _____ Suggest direction for future research to further explore how this population is regulated
- _____ Strong concluding sentence

- _____ Numbers found in Results section are summarized, not re-listed (it is okay to point out a few, though)
- _____ Results treated as qualitative guides for more informed management, NOT as accurate predictors for all populations in all situations.
- _____ The only sociopolitical facts given are necessary to explain trends in results or to justify how these results could be interpreted / applied

Literature Cited (____ / 2 pts.)

- _____ Meets minimum requirement for number of approved references
- _____ All literature listed is found in the body of the text
- _____ No in-text citations are missing from the Literature Cited
- _____ Follows format of *Conservation Biology*
(<http://www.conbio.org/Publications/ConsBio/Instructions/Style.cfm>)