

NAME:

Aspect	Criteria for Excellence	Traits of Papers that Score below Excellent	Score
1. Format	Paper follows all specific class instructions (name, date, 5pg. Max., components, order of components, font, margins, numbered pages, Title, model and script, etc.).	Instructions or format requirements unmet (e.g., use of scientific names, units of measure, etc.).	/15
2. Content	0. Abstract provides a concise outline of study with objectives, methods, results and discussion.	Lacks the main components that describe why, how and what the study accomplished.	/10
	1. Introduction provides background information and big picture context, and a clearly stated hypothesis/ prediction/ objective.	Fails to relate the importance and goal of the study.	/20
	2. Methods describe the study site, system involved, origin of data, data used, and outlines the steps of analysis (Tools/Programs used).	Steps are not sufficiently clear or detailed for study to be replicated.	/20
	3. Results report the outcome of the study without interpretation. Tables/Figures employ appropriate color scheme, caption, and layout are informative and not redundant.	Unclear legend, confusing color scheme, takes time to understand the map, too many graphs/ figures/ maps that makes the communication difficult.	/20
	4. Discussion provides the interpretation and implications of results. Discussion questions are addressed and concisely answered.	Does not address the discussion questions in depth, and repeats many of the concepts already discussed in other sections.	/20
	5. References (at least 10, 5 of which are scientific articles). Paper follows criteria of Ecological Society of America format.	References are not from reliable sources (but are treated as such) and need formatting. Items cited in text are not in literature cited section. Citation in literature cited section not in text.	/10
3. Clarity and Focus	Paragraphs are logically sequenced to build an effective discussion/argument. Each paragraph has a clear purpose (embodied in a topic sentence). All sentences are clear, succinct, and directly applicable to the issue. Paper uses correct grammar, punctuation, spelling, and sentence structure, understandable to persons not in this field (including non-scientists). Paper uses appropriate scientific language.	Development of idea(s) difficult to follow. Paragraphs are not focused. Sentences are unclear, or do not support paragraph. Numerous errors in grammar, spelling, sentence structure, punctuation. Uses undefined jargon and acronyms	/20

4. Analytical Depth	Project objectives are unique. Significant GIS component as laid out by Project Outline (after Instructor comments). Project relevant to natural resources.	Lack of spatial analysis. Objectives are not new (already answered in the scientific published literature). Did not complete objectives outlined in Project Outline (after Instructor comments).	/15
TOTAL			/150

General comments: