

NAME:

ASSINGMENT:

Aspect	Criteria for Excellence	Traits of Papers that Score below Excellent	Score
1. Format	Paper follows all specific class instructions (name, date, length, components, order of components, font, margins, numbered pages, Title, etc.).	Instructions or format requirements unmet (e.g., use of scientific names, units of measure, etc.).	/15
2. Content	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.	/15
	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.	/15
	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.	/15
	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.	/15
	5. References. 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.	Development of idea(s) difficult to follow. Paragraphs are not focused.	/15
	Paper uses correct grammar, punctuation, spelling, and sentence structure, understandable to persons not in this field (including non-scientists). Paper uses professional language as one would find in a published journal.	Sentences are unclear, or do not support paragraph. Numerous errors in grammar, spelling, sentence structure, punctuation. Uses undefined jargon and acronyms	
TOTAL			/100

General comments: