

GUIDELINES FOR FORMATTING BIOLOGY THESES

This document provides guidelines for the formatting and layout of theses submitted to the Department of Biological Sciences. Your research advisor will likely provide examples of past theses to use as models, but note that Biology requires the following format for the finished thesis.

The first page of the thesis must be the Title Page, which will be signed by the student, the research advisor, the faculty sponsor (if appropriate), and the Biology Chair.

The body of the thesis must be composed of the following sections in the order listed: ABSTRACT (single-spaced and not to exceed one page), INTRODUCTION, MATERIALS & METHODS, RESULTS, DISCUSSION (can combine w/results **if** approved by advisor), ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, and LITERATURE CITED (alphabetical by author and date). Tables and figures should be appended to the end of the thesis in the order they are referenced in the text.

Each of these sections should begin on a new page, with section-headings in capital letters and centered. The entire document should be double-spaced (except Abstract and Literature Cited sections) with one-inch margins and with type no larger than 12 points. All pages after the Title Page should be sequentially numbered in the upper right corner. **Note that the remainder of this document may be used as a template to help prepare your thesis.**

The final original copy should be critically proofread and the title page signed by the student, the director and sponsor (if applicable) before the May 1st deadline. Remember that this is your thesis and that you are ultimately responsible for its contents and conclusions.

An electronic copy of your completed and approved thesis should be submitted to the Chair of Biology – this copy will be maintained in our digital records.

Biology also encourages you to submit your thesis to the Monroe Library for inclusion in the Loyola University New Orleans Electronic Theses digital archive. You may designate whether viewing of your thesis in this archive should be open to the general public or limited to viewing by only the Loyola community. This feature is handy in case you are concerned about your research results being “scooped” before you have a chance to publish. THE FORM FOR SUBMITTING YOUR THESIS TO THE DIGITAL ARCHIVE IS APPENDED TO THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT.

A CRITICAL EVALUATION OF THE ROLE OF ODORIFEROUS FOOT FUNGI IN
DETERMINING THE MATING SUCCESS OF COLLEGE-AGED MALES

A Thesis

In Partial Fulfillment for a

B. S. in Biological Sciences

Loyola University New Orleans

New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

May 2014

By

YOUR FULL NAME

Signed:

Author

Your Full name

Advisor

Dr. Advisors' Name

Sponsor*

Dr. Advisors' Name

Chairperson

Dr. Frank Jordan

*Include a Loyola faculty sponsor if your research was directed by a non-Loyola faculty member. Also, you may add additional lines as needed (e.g., Co-Advisor).

ABSTRACT

This section should be indented and single-spaced. The abstract is a concise (about 250 word) summary of what you did, why you did it, how you did it, what you found, and what it all means. This section is very important because it is often the only portion of the thesis that other people see!

INTRODUCTION

This section should be indented and double-spaced. The Introduction introduces your question and justifies to the reader why the question is worth pursuing. You should provide a thorough review of the relevant literature that starts out broad and relatively quickly narrows in on your specific question. This section should include an explicit statement of your research objectives.

METHODS

This section should be indented and double-spaced. The Methods section provides enough details to allow others to critically evaluate and reproduce your research if so desired. However, try not to provide too many superfluous details because your reader may die of boredom. The methods section should also be used to describe your study area, study critter, experimental design, novel methods or techniques, statistical methods, etc. Note that you may want to use subheadings to help organize your methods section and then use the same sequence to present your results and discussion.

RESULTS

This section should be indented and double-spaced. The Results section provides a concise and logical enumeration of your major findings. This section usually does not include interpretation of results.

DISCUSSION

This section should be indented and double-spaced. The Discussion section is where you interpret your results. **HOWEVER, DO NOT RESTATE YOUR RESULTS.** This section should include a discussion of how your findings tie in with previous research. You can also use this section to discuss limitations of your research and suggest future directions. Finally, you should emphasize how your results contribute to the bigger picture within your respective field.

In some situations, your advisor may recommend that you combine results and discussion into a single Results and Discussion section.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This section should be indented and double-spaced. You should thank everyone who contributed to completion of your research. Here is some suggested verbiage: This thesis was presented to the Biology Department at Loyola University New Orleans in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Honors Degree of Bachelor's of Science. I would like to thank... Support for this project was provided by Mullahy Fund for research in the Biological Sciences.

LITERATURE CITED

This section should be single-spaced. Scientific journals vary significantly with respect to how references are cited in the text and then listed in the Literature Cited section. Rather than have all students adhere to a single set of citation rules, we simply ask that you be consistent in how references are cited in text and how they are enumerated below. Here is one example of how to list references. Note that papers are arranged alphabetically. Papers that have the same author(s) should be arranged in ascending chronological order (i.e., oldest paper first). **NOTE THAT YOU CAN REFER TO YOUR CELLS & HEREDITY OR BIOLOGY OF ORGANISMS LAB MANUALS FOR ADVICE ON HOW TO ORGANIZE THIS SECTION.**

Anderson, O. 1984. Optimal foraging by largemouth bass in structured environments. *Ecology* 65: 851-861.

Savino, J.F., and R.A. Stein. 1982. Predator-prey interaction between largemouth bass and bluegills as influenced by simulated, submersed vegetation. *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society* 111:255-266.

Savino, J.F., and R.A. Stein. 1989. Behavioural interactions between fish predators and their prey: effects of plant density. *Animal Behaviour* 37:311-321.

Note that tables and figures are appended after this section. Tables are generally listed first and then figures, both in the order they are mentioned in the text of your thesis.

Table X: Describe the content of this table.

Figure X: Describe the content of this figure.

FINALLY – PLEASE CONSIDER ADDING YOUR THESIS TO THE MONROE LIBRARY’S
ELECTRONIC COLLECTION OF THESES.