

Bio101 (Kay) Review Paper – Grading Rubric

NOTE: You must print this and ATTACH it to the paper copy you submit.

40 pts: Scientific merit

- ___/5 Does the paper address a well-defined topic in botany? (Note: this does NOT imply that you can pick a topic unrelated to botany and “only” receive a 5 point deduction. This criterion implies that your topic is coherently introduced and described in your paper).
- ___/5 Does the paper adequately survey the scientific literature to provide a current and accurate summary of what is known? (It is OK to report that there is not a strong consensus among the published papers that were surveyed).
- ___/5 Is the paper based upon well-referenced scientific information?
- ___/5 Does the author avoid editorializing (i.e., statement of opinion)?
- ___/10 Does the author identify and synthesize trends in research articles he/she references, such that he/she can make valid generalizations about the current state of knowledge in a topic (i.e., does the author avoid mindlessly listing the results of many studies)?
- ___/10 Does the author identify gaps in the current understanding of the topic, and propose future research to fill these gaps?

20 pts: Research

- ___/5 Does the paper include at least 10 peer-reviewed original scientific articles? (This number does NOT include review articles, though they may be cited).
- ___/5 Are the articles used appropriately in the text to support statements made by the author?
- ___/5 Is the research current? Literature cites must include at least three peer-review original research articles published in the past five years.
- ___/5 Does the research extend far back into history of the topic to adequately capture this history?

20 pts: Clarity of writing and grammar

- ___/5 Are sentences properly constructed (i.e., not “run-on”, contain a verb, subject, and object, do not end in a prepositional phrase, have commas in proper location if necessary, etc.)? Is the paper free of spelling mistakes and grammatical errors?
- ___/5 Are paragraphs structured as discrete units of information that address a particular idea?
- ___/5 Do paragraphs begin with a topic sentence that introduces the main idea, and are paragraphs typically comprised of 3-5 sentences?
- ___/5 Is the writing overly bombastic or colloquial (avoid!), or is the writing concise and free of superfluous verbiage (aspire to this!)?

10 pts: Structural organization of paper

- ___/2 Review article contains the required sections: title, author information (including LAB SECTION!), abstract (no more than 300 words), introduction, subtopic sections (each with a title), and literature cited. These section headings appear in bold font (no section headings for the title or author information).
- ___/2 Body of article (i.e., introduction and subtopic sections) is appropriate length to adequately address topic (**≥1500 words**...remember that the abstract does not count towards the 1500 word minimum!).
- ___/3 Article contains one table and three figures (one map/photo, and two data figures), each of which is properly captioned, labeled, referenced in the text, and embedded in an appropriate location in text.
NOTE: Tables are NOT data figures. Data figures present data in graphical format (e.g., pie chart, line or bar graphs, etc.) whereas tables are tidy “lists” of information. Please learn the difference. (Your total here is 1 table + 3 figures = 4 total images inserted into the paper.)
- ___/2 Subtopic sections are “meaningful” divisions within paper and do not appear to be superficially applied after text was written.
- ___/1 Article is printed in Calibri, Arial, or Times New Roman font (11 or 12 pt.), 1.5 line spacing, pages are numbered middle bottom of every page.

10 pts: Literature Cited section

- ___/4 All references in the *Literature Cited* section are properly formatted per *The Botanical Review*, are free of typos and stray punctuation etc., and are in alphabetical order.
- ___/3 References within the text are appropriately formatted (for example: Smith, 2015) and actually refer to papers in the literature cited.
- ___/3 References with more than three authors are cited in the text as “Lead author et al., date” (e.g., Smith et al., 2015).