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## Instructions for Authors

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# Instructions for authors

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## STYLE GUIDELINES

*Discovery* uses *Scientific Style and Format: The Council of Biology Editors Manual for Authors, Editors, and Publishers* as its style manual. Refer to the latest available edition of the CBE manual for any questions not covered in these guidelines.

For research in disciplines where professional journals use style guides that differ significantly from the CBE, please consult the *Discovery* managing editor for guidance. You may also use this issue of *Discovery* as a style guide.

Writing style should be consistent with professional journals in the student's discipline. However, articles will be reviewed and read by people with varied backgrounds. Therefore, authors should avoid scientific jargon and should use a style and vocabulary that can be understood by any educated reader.

## FORMAT

Report measurements in metric and other standard scientific units. Units or symbols that are likely to be unfamiliar to a general readership should be defined.

Figures should be camera-ready, printed black on white paper, and/or submitted as electronic EPS or TIFF files or other common desktop publishing graphics format. The size of figures will be adjusted by the editor to fit the page format. For tables, use tabs between columns of data instead of spaces.

Microsoft Word is the preferred text format, although WordPerfect will be accepted as well.

Indicate footnotes using sequential superscript lowercase letters (z, w, x, etc) Place table footnotes at the bottom of the table. Footnotes used to clarify or annotate text should be placed at the bottom of the page in which the reference appears.

Use a comma before the word *and* in a series: *The U.S. flag is red, white, and blue.*

## **PARTS OF THE MANUSCRIPT**

The title page should include the following:

- a concise, descriptive title
- authors' first names, middle initials (if any), and last names (faculty sponsor should be listed as a coauthor)
- an abstract
- a footnote identifying each author by classification and major for students; rank and department for faculty and staff
- a footnote identifying faculty sponsor or mentor
- a footnote acknowledging financial support and other assistance. Note support by any companies or parties with a vested interest in the research results.

The *Abstract* summarizes the purpose, procedures, and main findings in 250 words or less.

The *Introduction* states the purpose of the study, the hypothesis, and pertinent background information.

The *Materials and Methods* section describes the experimental design, materials used, statistical analysis (required), and any other details needed for another researcher to reproduce the study and to confirm the validity of findings and conclusions.

The *Results and Discussion* section presents appropriate data, but not all data, in text, tables, and figures and places the findings in context with other research in the field. The discussion emphasizes new and important aspects of the research and conclusions that follow from them. Include implications and impact of the findings. Relate your findings to observations of other studies. State new hypotheses when warranted, but avoid unqualified statements not completely supported by your data.

The *Literature Cited* section lists the complete references corresponding to those cited in the text. Within the text, references are indicated by (Last Name, Year), e.g., (Jones, 2000) (Smith and Jones, 2000) (Brown, et al., 2000) The complete citation is listed at the end of the manuscript in alphabetical order by the first author's last name. Multiple citations of the same author are listed chronologically or by order of reference in the text if they have the same year.

Journal references are written as follows:

*Authors. Year. Title. Journal title. (month and date if appropriate); volume:pages.* As below, no italics, (unless latin phrase or word, which requires italics):

Jones, G.R., W.F. Smith, and T.Q. Brown. 1999.  
Seasonal nitrate content of tall fescue. *Agronomy J.* 55(3):49-53.

Book references are written as follows:  
*Authors or editors. Year. Title. Publisher, Place of publication.* As below, no italics, (unless latin phrase or word, which requires italics):

Ryugo, K. 1998. *Fruit Culture: Its Science and Art.*  
John Wiley and Sons, London.

Internet URL citations are written as follows:  
Limon, T.A., R.S. Benz. 2000. *Grains of the world.*  
*Science on the Web.* Prentice Hall. <<http://www.sci-web.com>> Accessed Apr.17, 2000.

## **MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSION**

Submit two copies of a printed manuscript on 8.5 x 11-in. paper, with double-spaced, 12-pt. text on one side, and an electronic file on 3.5" disk or as an e-mail attachment to <[cmromund@comp.uark.edu](mailto:cmromund@comp.uark.edu)>. Mail or deliver to Discovery, Communication Services Unit, 110 AGRI, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701.

Include a cover letter signed by a faculty sponsor or mentor and all authors. Unless otherwise indicated, the editor will correspond with the first author for revisions, approval of proofs, etc. Note: First author (student) must include a current and a forwarding e-mail address (or phone number) for contact outside the school year.

Length should be limited to about 2000 words, but no minimum or maximum length is required.

## **REVIEW PROCEDURES**

Papers will be reviewed by an editorial board, which will decide as follows:

- Publish with minor revision
- Publish with acceptable revision
- Revise and resubmit
- Reject

Written comments of reviewers will be provided to the author. When a paper is accepted "with revisions," the managing editor will approve a final draft for publication.

After a final draft is accepted, the author will be given a proof to check for errors before publication.