

SBIO 599 Review Paper

Your review paper should have the following sections:

Note: A review paper does not usually have the "Methods" and "Results" sections

- A. **Title:** As for a research paper, this should be short and inform your reader of the major ideas that will be discussed.
- B. **Abstract:** Again this should be written last and should summarize the major points made within the body of your paper.
- C. **Introduction:** Your introduction should be short and concise (ca. 1page). The purpose of the introduction is to introduce your reader to the ideas that you will be addressing in the body of your paper. In your introduction you should be trying to bring readers from different backgrounds up to speed with the "thesis" or objective of your paper and explain to them why it is that this issue is important. It is not a review of the field... that is what the body of the paper is for! It is generally written after the body of the paper is completed (so that you know where you've "gone" intellectually in the paper and thus can effectively communicate to your reader what to expect).
- D. **Body:** In this portion of your paper you will outline the background for your idea and begin to synthesize ideas from the papers you've read in order to build a coherent "thesis". Before you write this section, figure out what your perspective is going to be (what are you trying to show?). Having done this, try to present your ideas in such a way that they build your discussion logically towards your goal. Outlines will be a big help to you at this stage. Frequently using headings (e.g. History of the idea, Specific conflicts etc.) can help you to systematically address each important point that you wish to make, as well as helping your reader to follow your arguments. Once you've developed your headings you can then go back and place topic sentences for each paragraphs of information you wish to convey under the appropriate heading. Each paragraph should have clear, well thought out points, and should contain only the information needed to make or support that point. Fill in each paragraph with more details until you have a coherent argument building towards your final, concluding statement.
- E. **Conclusion:** Like the introduction, the conclusion section is not usually separated from the body of the paper, although it can be if it is really long. In this section you should restate the objective(s) of your paper and point out how you have satisfied these goals. It should also reiterate what the major conclusions (ideas) of your study are.
- F. **Literature Cited.** Should follow a standard format. If you used the reference in your paper, it must be cited!

SBIO 599 Review Paper Criteria

Required Elements

- _____ Abstract provides concise summary that highlights most salient points.
- _____ Minimum of 10 articles from the primary literature
- _____ Electronic version of the paper included on VIRUS FREE computer diskette
- _____ Copies of all sources included
- _____ Paper is effectively organized into sections.

Overall Organization

- _____ The guiding question/message of the paper is stated at the beginning. - The paper has a thesis, a point is made, a hypothesis is tested, something is proven or disproven.
- _____ The studies are discussed in appropriate depth and not superficially.
- _____ A clear train of thought is followed and involves the reader.
- _____ The information from different articles is integrated and the articles are not simply discussed one after the other.
- _____ The paper is not just a general summary, but includes an examination of experiments and data.
- _____ Methods are discussed in enough detail to support the results/conclusions.
- _____ The conclusions are stated at the end in a form to reinforce the message.
- _____ The conclusions are crisp and concise.
- _____ The majority of the paper is based on *primary* literature.
- _____ The presenter appears to understand the material.
- _____ Topic area is covered in sufficient depth.

Spelling, Grammar, Formatting, misc.

- _____ The writing is clear. The paper flows with good sentence structure and transitions. It is easy to read.
- _____ The paper has at least college-level grammar, spelling, and neatness. Evident care was taken in the editing and review of the paper.
- _____ Tables and Figures are necessary, consistent in format
- _____ Overall formatting uniformity: i.e. page numbers, inconsistencies, etc.
- _____ Spelling checked
- _____ Appropriate grammatical structure used
- _____ Word-processed, double spaced, font no greater than 12 point size
- _____ All citations are present in Literature Cited section.
- _____ Citations follow a consistent format