

Biology Scoring Sheet for Writing Assessment
(8/23/07)

1. Demonstrates understanding of scientific writing:

- abstract summarizes key points and sections
- each section has content appropriate to the section
- discussion section synthesizes results with literature
- understands what needs to be cited
- graphics integrated into and integral to the paper
- shows evidence of analytical thinking

More than satisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Unacceptable
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2. Content, comprehension, and development of ideas:

- follows assignment
- has sufficient data and/or information
- evidence of original work
- paraphrases correctly and accurately
- conclusion captures main points
- has a title that fits paper
- has appropriate and challenging content
- defines technical terms, used appropriately, not gratuitously
- stays on topic

More than satisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Unacceptable
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3. Structure and organization

- clearly organized
- flows (has topic sentences, repetition of key words, other transitions)
- shows an understanding of paragraphs
- introduction sets up paper and points follow in order
- topic sentences focus paragraphs

More than satisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Unacceptable
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4. Documenting and Citing

- has adequate citing
- sources are introduced appropriately
- follows appropriate documentation style
- paraphrases without excessive quoting
- citations match references

More than satisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Unacceptable
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5. Mechanics (any paper that receives an “unacceptable” in this section must receive an overall score of unsatisfactory)

- correct labeling and referencing of tables and graphs
- correct tenses
- punctuation, esp. comma use
- correct sentence structure and syntax
- correct word choice
- subject/verb agreement (e.g., data are)
- correct use of italics
- concise language appropriate to science

More than satisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Unacceptable
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Overall Score (any paper that receives an “unacceptable” on one or more items must be assessed as unsatisfactory overall.)

More than satisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
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