**Introduction: should “tell a story” going from general to specific information**

1. Introduce squirrels in a few sentences, and then discuss information or characteristics about them relevant to the topic (e.g., animal competition, cache hording). You should be able to tie this into the literature that you’ve read and that you will summarize next.
2. Spend the next few paragraphs summarizing the articles you read. Pick out the concepts from those articles that best relate to your study. Use at least three primary sources (Hopewell et al. (2008) and Gurnell (1996) must be two of them).
3. Present your research question(s) and hypotheses. You should lead the reader to find your hypotheses obvious. You need to make the connections between the articles you cite and our paper topic.
   1. Have at least two hypotheses on at least two squirrel behaviors.

**Method: should be detailed enough for someone to replicate what we did**

1. Subject
   1. What animal (*Sciurus carolinensis*, family Sciuridae), how many (*N*), how many each season, how do you define the seasons
2. Materials
   1. What materials did we use to carry out research (i.e., stopwatch? and ethogram)? Explain the ethogram and behaviors.
3. Procedures
   1. Explain exactly what you did (as a group). Starting with when and then detailed enough so someone could replicate our study exactly.

**Results: should include descriptive statistics about the observed behaviors and address hypotheses**

1. Remind the reader what you set out to find.
2. Descriptive statistics – of the behaviors
   1. Make sure you follow the proper format for presenting means and standard deviations.
3. Group differences – t-tests
   1. Should present a t-test for each of your hypotheses

**Discussion: should summarize and interpret your results, discuss problems with the study, and propose future directions**

1. Restate your results in words – that is, summarize what the results section said without using numbers or statistical terms (correlation, significant). Were your hypotheses supported?
2. “Unpack” your results for each hypothesis. What do your findings mean? How do your results compare with the results of other studies? Do they clarify or complicate things? Why do you think they are the same or different from previous studies?
3. Discuss the limitations of the study. This doesn’t mean to say why the study is bad, but go over some of the obvious limitations and how they can be overcome.
4. Propose future research possibilities. What are the implications of your study? Propose future research ideas to follow up on your study – what is the next step? Discuss some ideas for what you would do to follow this up – don’t just say that you would do it again with more squirrels. End with a brief summary of your effects – what is the “take-home” message?

**References**

1. On a separate page, list all cited works. Everything in the references must appear in the paper, and vice versa.

**Table**

1. On a separate page, include a table with the M and SD for each behavior for each season

**Overall requirements**

1. Paper should aim to be 10 pages long, not including your references and table
2. Double spaced in Times New Roman font size 12 with 1 inch margins
3. Follow all other APA requirements (formatting, citations, table). Should also have a cover page and an abstract.
4. Paper is due on Thursday, March 1st at 1pm. Bring a hard copy to class AND upload paper to TurnItIn.