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Instructions for Authors

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Instructions for Authors

Authors, read closely and follow precisely:

STYLE GUIDELINES

DISCOVERY uses *Scientific Style and Format: The Council of Science Editors Manual for Authors, Editors, and Publishers* as its style manual. Refer to the latest available edition of the CSE manual for any questions not covered in these guidelines. Refer to the *Associated Press Stylebook* for state abbreviations. For research in disciplines where professional journals use style guides that differ significantly from the CSE, please consult the *DISCOVERY* managing editor for guidance. Please follow the most recent issue of *DISCOVERY* Instructions for Authors, also available at http://arkansasagnews.uark.edu/discovery_instruct2014.pdf.

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. Define all abbreviations upon first use.

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.
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- Create tables in a sans-serif 9 pt. font (e.g., Helvetica, Calibri) with title only bolded and centered above table (superscripts/subscripts in footnotes and table text in Helvetica 8 pt.; look at prior *DISCOVERY* journals for capitalization style, table width, and horizontal (0.05 width) rule styles.
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- Indicate footnotes for tables using sequential superscript lowercase letters (a, b, c, etc.) Place table footnotes below last horizontal rule of table. Footnotes used to clarify or annotate text should be placed at the bottom of the page in which the reference appears and indicated with sequential superscript numbers (1, 2, 3, etc.)
- 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
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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 supported by your data.

The *Acknowledgement* section recognizes financial support and other assistance. Note support by any companies or parties with a vested interest in the research results. Please thank your advisor, other professors, co-authors, and other individuals who helped with your research in the *Meet the Student-Author* section.

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; Finn, 1998). List the complete citation alphabetically (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 dated the same year.

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Book references are written as follows:

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Also submit a brief personal biography (refer to past issues of DISCOVERY for style and length) and phone the Communication Services office at (479) 575-5647 to arrange an appointment to have your photo taken for the journal. 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.

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

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- Publish with acceptable revision
- Revise and resubmit
- Reject

Written comments of reviewers will be provided to the author. Student authors are expected to make revisions as part of the publication process. When a paper is accepted "with revisions," the managing editor will approve a final draft for publication.