

## Guidelines for Graduate Student Review Papers

Graduate students taking undergraduate classes for credit are generally required to write a review article on a topic assigned by the instructor. Review articles written in the *Journal of Animal Science Style and Form* should conform to the following guidelines:

### GENERAL:

1. Papers should be written in the past tense. All information presented comes from research that has already been completed.
2. The purpose of the paper is to utilize documented research to support a conclusion. The author has not personally conducted the research. He/she is only using the information to justify his/her conclusions.

### SECTIONS:

1. **ABSTRACT.** Every paper begins with an abstract. This section represents a summary of the entire paper. It is brief and to the point. It generally consists of a single paragraph and is limited to no more than three main conclusions. It may contain literature references, but these should be conclusive rather than informative. The abstract should end with a clear, concise statement of the author's conclusion.
2. **KEY WORDS.** At the end of the abstract, up to six (6) key words that best describe the nature of the review should be listed. Key words should include the species and the physiological aspect of the research and progress from general to specific.
3. **INTRODUCTION.** The introduction should be a clear, concise explanation of the hypothesis being examined. Relevant literature should be included in a conclusive manner; one sentence per citation, and no more than three references should be cited. The introduction ends with a statement of hypothesis.
4. **REVIEW OF LITERATURE.** A review article requires that the author replace the customary *Materials and Methods* section with a *Review of Literature*. The author has not conducted any research and has no research technique of his/her own to report. This section should be organized by concepts rather than references. Information on the procedures of the specific references should only be included if it provides necessary information regarding the hypothesis. The purpose of this paper is to provide supporting information, however, it is also important to present at least one conflicting or alternative conclusion, if possible.
5. **DISCUSSION.** The discussion section is where the author interprets the information obtained from the literature. Specific information from the cited papers should be included in this section and is most often presented in a combined

tabular or graphic format. Concepts are presented, with documented information, which support the author's hypothesis. Detailed explanations and interpretations of all pertinent scientific evidence are presented using correct scientific terminology. Building support for the author's conclusions is the main focus of this section.

6. **CONCLUSIONS**. The conclusion section is a clear, concise presentation of the author's hypothesis in lay terms. Speculation is permitted. Application of the hypothesis to practical animal husbandry should be stressed. The need for future investigation may also be presented. Specific citations are generally not included in this section.

7. **LITERATURE CITED**. Every article, paper, book, personal communication, etc., cited in the paper must be listed in this section. Proper format for listing citations is in the Style and Form manual.

A copy of the *Journal of Animal Science* **Style and Form** can be obtained on-line at [www.asas.org/jas/2003styleandform.pdf](http://www.asas.org/jas/2003styleandform.pdf). This provides the acceptable format for citations, literature listings, abbreviations, tables, figures, scientific terminology, and numeric terms. This is the specified format for all technical papers in the Department of Animal Sciences. It must be used unless the instructor provides you with an alternative format.