

Sample Writing Rubric for Geographic Information Science

Final research reports are expected to follow the IMRD lab report format (Abstract, Introduction, Materials/Methods, Results, Discussion/Conclusions). When individual sections are handed in, they will be evaluated based on the criteria for that section. Plan to revise the Introduction and Materials/Methods sections based on comments received, they will be graded more stringently in the final report.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask!

Section	Description	%
Writing Style	Writing style is clear and concise. Writing is well organized (in IMRD format and clearly organized within sections) Grammar and spelling mistakes are few	10
Content	The appropriate data were used to address the research question Multiple different analysis methods were used The results effectively address the research question The implications for this work, and ideas for future work are considered	20
Abstract	The abstract is an appropriate length (up to 1 page) Briefly states the research objectives and a justification for the work A basic outline of the methods is presented Results and significant conclusions are presented	5
Introduction	The introduction is an appropriate length (~ 2 pages) Describes how the subject of your research fits into the larger body of work Provides a background and justification (the 'why' of your research) Includes appropriate references Describes the objectives of the research May include a hypothesis for the research May include a description of the study area/location with appropriate figures.	10
Materials/ Methods	Describes materials used (with appropriate sources cited). Describes methods of data collection/creation if appropriate. Methods of analysis of the data. The specific tools in ArcGIS are not necessary, but a description of the method is (ex. " <i>Point locations of crimes were converted to a grid of crime density using a search radius of 500 m</i> " is sufficient. You do not need to include that you used the density tool in the Spatial Analyst extension). Presents any statistical evaluation performed on the data. Uses appropriate materials to address the research question presented in the introduction. Multiple different analyses were performed and methodology was rigorous.	10
Results	Presents the results of the analysis discussed in the materials/methods section. The results are appropriate in the context of the research question.	20

	<p>Statistical results are presented where appropriate</p> <p>Tables and figures are used to illustrate the results</p> <p>Tables and figures are correctly and consistently referred to in the text.</p>	
Discussion	<p>Interprets the results</p> <p>Describes the significance of the results</p> <p>Describes the implications of the results for future work</p> <p>Includes personal opinions, point of view and defense of methods used</p> <p>May include a discussion of whether the hypothesis was accepted or rejected</p>	15
Figures	<p>Figures are clear and readable</p> <p>Figures contain the appropriate amount of information (only necessary information).</p> <p>Captions fully describe the figure</p>	10