BIOL 450w Fall 2019 Dr. T. A. Carlo

Independent research proposal preparation outline (Max three pages, single space, font not smaller than 12 points, 1.0 inch margins):

1. Title of your project
2. Objective(s)
3. Hypotheses/prediction(s)
4. Layout of study/experiment – here you need to clearly identify the factors, the levels of each factor, and the amount of replication for each factor combination.
5. Expected results (graphical representation of the expected/hypothesized effects of your study variables on the response(es) variables of your study)
6. Briefly describe your sampling approach, including the type of statistical analyses you plan to use.

This exercise will help you more clearly plan and understand what you are doing. If you have any question please ask them before you go into the field or you turn in this short proposal. You will also provide a power point presentation with a max of six slides (one for each of the topics listed above).

When preparing and presenting your proposal presentation you must:

1. keep text to a minimum per slide (for example, 40-50 words per slide is considered A LOT)
2. Do not read the text in the slides – explain in your own words – the slide is just to provide the topics and to underscore a take-home message
3. When showing a figure, always explain the axes: “here you can see the effect of X on Y – in the x axis we have this and that… the response (y axis) is the average of this and that…”
4. Project your voice – that is – speak as loudly (without shouting) and as clear as you can.
5. Avoid fancy and confusing backgrounds. It is proven that the best backgrounds are plain white/light grey and plain black (with white font). Complicated patterns for background are always distracting and make the material harder to assimilate – even if you think it looks pretty – it doesn't work as well. The purpose is to communicate effectively.
6. Finish within the assigned time (7-minute max, with 5 minutes of questions, comments, and suggestions, 6-7 slides).