**Guidelines for Lab proposals**

The main goal of the proposal is to outline an experiment that will be conducted during the laboratory time on the subject at hand. This proposal should demonstrate to the reader that the proposer is knowledgeable in the subject area and has a valid scientific hypothesis he or she would like to test. The proposal should conform significantly to the following guidelines.

**Title:** The proposal should contain an adequate descriptive title

**Introduction**: This section should engage the reader and demonstrate the background material about the subject. Additionally, the introduction should state a hypothesis or series of hypotheses based on the background literature that can be answered or tested in class. The introduction should be identical to the introduction of you lab reports in that: (1) the subject is introduced (2) a gap or question in the literature is identified and (3) a hypothesis is proposed (see [how to write a lab report](file:///Z:\genetics%202009\How%20to%20Write%20a%20Lab%20report.htm) for further guidance). Your introduction should contain references to primary literature to help support your hypothesis. Your introduction should also be arranged in a way that guides the reader from a broad introduction to a specific hypothesis.

**Methods and materials**: This section should describe in adequate detail the experimental design that you plan to use. It is very important that the details are thought out in a thorough manner so that anyone can use your description to repeat the experiment. This section will also be very similar to the materials and methods section you will write in your lab reports. Diagrams are also a valid and informative way of demonstrating an experimental design and you may want to include some if it will enhance the clarity of your proposal.

**Work Cited**: Your work cannot exist in a vacuum, so it will be necessary to demonstrate where your information comes from. The references you cite in the introduction should be listed here. You will use this section again in your final lab report.

**Final thoughts**: The same guidelines found under “how to write a lab report” also apply here. In many ways, this proposal will serve as a rough draft of your final paper.