

Guidelines for Progress Report Paper for EEB 475, 495

Here are some guidelines to organize your **Progress Report** after your first semester of EEB 475, or 495 Senior research projects.

The length of these reports varies, but usually is a 3-5 page double-spaced paper (before figures and tables). Progress should have the following sections:

Background of the project:

To remind the reader about your work, here you should state what the project is, what the purpose is and a short summary of what was done before you began participating in the project (i.e., provide a brief contextual background). End this section describing what your progress report is going to be about: some preliminary results, problems and solutions, the remaining research and a timetable to accomplish that.

Preliminary results:

Describe the results you have achieved since you started working in the lab. Including time learning techniques and methodology and reading relevant papers, etc. Present your data. You can present data through tables and figures. Describe your own results and how they contribute to the overall lab project. This is where you include your preliminary analysis and interpretation of your results. It should refer to related research that helps shed light on the meaning of your results. It should repeat the particular points of the data that lead you to your conclusions.

Discussion of problems with methods:

Describe pitfalls and problems with methodology, data collection, data analysis or any other problem. Describe your trouble shooting techniques, learning experiences and what you and your lab mates are doing about it. You can refer to other work or papers or “brain storming ideas” from lab meetings that helped you to learn how to solve problems.

Discuss the future work:

Here you describe your plans and timetable to complete your objectives. Be explicit about changes to the original proposal and if there are new objectives or hypotheses to be tested. It can include suggestions for improving the experiment you carried out. It can also include suggestions for future experiments to further elucidate your experimental system. Make sure you include your timetable to finish collecting data, data analysis and schedule for writing at least one draft and then complete your final thesis paper by the end of reading week in April 2015.

Literature Cited

The exact format of this section varies a lot from journal to journal. So I'll leave most of the format up to you, but require the following:

1. Include all information about the article, book, or book chapter, including its title and all authors (last names and first & middle initials, if included). Be consistent in format
2. Put them in alphabetical order by the first author's last name

Inclusion of websites is unusual, but acceptable, as long as they are known reputable sites. Do your very best to find an author and publication year (last update) for a cited website.