PRE-LAB – SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE: ANATOMY OF A PAPER


Hint: Many of the answers to these questions can be found in the following places:
Course manual (under Field Research Project) and McMillan (recommended text), Chapters 3 and 4.

1. In which section of the paper do the authors provide the rationale for the study and its main objectives? What is another key purpose of this section?

2. In which section of the paper do the authors summarize the outcome of their study and analyses without interpretation or drawing major conclusions? In some cases, the authors summarize this information in a table; in other cases, in a figure. When would you choose to use a table over a figure? A figure over a table?

3. In the Methods section of the paper, how do the authors organize the presentation of this material?

4. What is the purpose of the Discussion section?

5. What is the purpose of citing literature? In which two sections of the paper is it most common (and necessary) to include citations?

6. Which citation was used to support the argument that salt spray deposition increases with increasing wind speed? Write the citation in ‘Ecology’ format (refer to Field Research Project section in Course Manual).