

## EXAMPLES OF RESEARCH ABSTRACTS

### Example of Abstract without Results

**Distribution and Habitat Use of the Gopher Tortoise in a Declining Southeast Florida Conservation Area.** Joshua Scholl<sup>1,2</sup>, Evelyn Frazier<sup>2</sup>, and Tobin Hindle. 2012. *FAU Undergraduate Research Journal* (1): pages 23–36

Gopher tortoises have been declining throughout their range over the last few decades due mostly to urbanization, which often leads to the creation of island habitats. This confines populations and eliminates natural management by wildfires resulting in degraded island habitats. To maximize conservation efforts in rapidly developing regions it is critically important to investigate not only the natural ecology of native species, but specifically how they are affected in confined and degraded habitats. We studied a gopher tortoise population to determine its status, distribution, and habitat use in a confined, degraded ecosystem on the Florida Atlantic University campus in Boca Raton, Florida. We conducted complete burrow surveys using belt transects, directly captured tortoises, and performed vegetation and soil analyses through aerial photos and U.S. Geological Survey data, respectively. The status of the population was assessed directly based on carapace length measurements and indirectly through ratios of active to abandoned burrow categories. The information obtained in this study can be used to improved current conservation management practices for this species.

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Contributed by E. Frazier with information from Branchaw, J. L., Pfund, C., and Rediske, R. (2010). *Entering Research: A Facilitator's Manual*. New York: W.H. Freeman & Co.

## PROMPTS FOR WRITING A RESEARCH ABSTRACT

1. Title of your research project and authorship.
2. What is the bigger picture of your research? Why should the audience care?
3. What background of your research topic is important to explain? What is the gap in the knowledge that your project addresses?
4. Hypothesis or research question guiding the study.
5. Experimental design or methodology that will be used to collect data to address the hypothesis or research question.
6. List the results (do not explain the results in this section). If you do not have results, list the expected results.
7. Conclusion/Significance: Do the results address the hypothesis? Was the hypothesis supported? Do the results address the gap in the knowledge? What is the significance?

### Adapted from:

Branchaw, J. L., Butz, A. R., & Smith A. R. (2019). *Entering Research* (2nd edition). New York: Macmillan