## Exploring the Effects of Climate on Plant Phenology Using Herbarium Specimens

Pearson KD, Mazer SJ, Yost JM. October 1, 2020

## Discussion and Conclusions

The discussion and conclusions sections can be the hardest part of writing a scientific paper or poster. They should provide a brief recap of the results and interpret what these results mean in the context of other research and the real world. Below is a checklist that can help you determine what information should be included in your discussion.

**Adapted from:** Mack, CA. 2018. *How to write a good scientific paper.* Bellingham, WA: SPIE. Retrieved from https://spie.org/samples/9781510619142.pdf

* Explain the results and show how they help to answer the research question(s) posed in the introduction.

\*Evidence does not explain itself! Evidence must be presented and then explained

* Discuss whether results are expected or unexpected
* Compare results to previous work (citing previously published papers and briefly describing their results)
* Interpret and explain your results, including whether they agree with or contrast with the results of similar studies published by other investigators (don’t forget to cite them)
* Hypothesize about the generality of your results
* Discuss problems or limitations of your work
* Examine possible alternate explanations for the results
* Explain why your work is significant
* Provide a future perspective on the work

For more help with writing your discussion section, visit the following website:

*https://student.unsw.edu.au/thesis-discussion-exercises*