

REU Proposal Guidelines

Your research proposal should be **2 pages single-spaced**, with **no smaller than 10 point font** and a **one-inch margin** on all sides. If needed, embed tables/figures logically within your text.

Title of your Project

REU Name

Mentor name

Mentor Lab

Introduction (0.5 page)

Explain why your area of research is important and why your particular question is relevant. Make sure to include a paragraph that describes the question your project will attempt to answer. State why the question is interesting--why do you find it interesting, what pattern caught your attention, or why you chose this question to investigate. Make sure to **explicitly state your hypothesis(es) or prediction(s) before you launch into your methods.**

Methods (0.5-1 page)

Describe where and how you plan to collect your data. This will include any equipment you plan to use, information on how you will pick your samples, etc. Someone else should be able to perform your study based on what you write here. Finally, tell the reader how you plan to analyze your data, specifying what statistical test(s) you will use.

Literature Cited (0.5-1 page)

You must include **at least 3 references to primary literature** (peer reviewed journal articles) in your proposal – most likely in the introduction and/or methods. Additional references from books, webpages, etc. should also be included, but **at least 3 of your references should be peer-reviewed journal articles.**

References should be arranged alphabetically by last name of the first author; multiple papers by the same first author are arranged chronologically. You may use the reference guidelines available for any ecological journal, but **you must stay consistent.** The following references are examples from the journal *Oikos*:

Journal

Haila, Y. and Järvinen, O. 1983. Land bird communities on a Finnish island: species impoverishment and abundance patterns. - *Oikos* 41: 255-273.

If more than two authors:

Lindsay, A. et al. 2000. Are plant populations seed-limited? A review of seed sowing experiments. – *Oikos* 88: 225–238.

Book

Mayr, E. 1963. Animal species and evolution. - Harvard Univ. Press.

Chapter

Goodall, D. W. 1972. Building and testing ecosystem models. - In: Jeffers, J. N. R. (ed.), Mathematical models in ecology. Blackwell, pp. 173-194.

In the text references should be given like this:

Mayr (1963) found that XYZ was more abundant in areas with high light and low soil moisture.

Other studies have also found that XYZ was more abundant in areas with high light and low soil moisture (Mayr 1963).

Budget (0.5 page)

You must include a detailed budget if you would like to use your research NSF REU research funding **up to \$250**.

Example:

Forestry Supplier Soil Probe (1 inch diameter)	\$ 45.00
Ziploc Bags	\$ 4.99
Soil pH and micronutrient testing (25 samples @ \$5 each)	<u>\$125.00</u>
Total	\$174.99