

Freshwater Ecology Lab Reports

Biology 3371; Dr. Dirnberger; Kennesaw State University

Lab #3 - Wetlands

Each person must write his/her own Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion sections.

In the Introduction be sure to clearly state the hypothesis and predictions. For the Introduction, you may use the following info:

Observations:

Gosh, not every aquatic system looks like a lake. Some got big green things sticking out of them, and they're not always so wet (PLEASE RE-WORD THIS FOR YOUR INTRODUCTION).

Central Questions:

Can differences in water quality be explained by morphometry (the shape of the landform holding water)?

Hypotheses:

Water quality (the physical properties and the substances dissolved and suspended in water) depends on the type of system, **wetland** versus **lake**.

Predictions:

YOU MAKE THESE. There are several parameters about which you can make predictions. Do this before you look at the data.

In the Methods, choose two of the four sites we visited to compare to each other:

- Choose the site you think is most **lake**-like based on the site description, vegetation, hydrological condition, and soil conditions.
- Choose the site you think is clearly a **wetland** based on the site description, vegetation, hydrological condition, and soil conditions.

Based on this information, be sure to describe why you consider one site to be the lake site and the other to be the wetland site.

In the Results, compare the two sites you chose. Be sure to describe trends in your graphs.

In the Discussion, explain why each of the water quality parameters examined differ between the lake site and the wetland site you selected to describe (i.e. explain **how** each of these systems are influencing the water moving through). Be sure to think about who are the main

primary producers in each system, where the primary production is actually occurring, and what is happening eventually to the organic matter being produced by primary production.

Include **Literature Cited**. Be sure to cite at least one source from the primary literature (i.e. refereed scientific journals) and indicate where within the body of your text (e.g. (Smith and Jones 2006)). If you are not sure how to determine if a source is primary, go to [Guide explaining the characteristics of scholarly, peer reviewed, and popular articles](#).