

**Tree Ecophysiology 2007- Critical
Review of Literature**

(Due: October 16, 2007)

A wide variety of topics related to ecophysiology are appropriate for review, so there is no absolute “correct” topic or approach to the composition of your manuscript. However, there are two specific components that all papers must contain:

- 1) An overview of the topic and a summary of the objectives and results of the paper(s) that you use in the discussion of your topic (2-4 pages).
- 2) An application of the information presented in your article(s) to forest science and/or management, i.e., what is the significance of the work (1-3 pages).

NOTE: These two components can be integrated into one cohesive narrative, but be sure to clearly develop both components. (In other words, make sure that I can see that you have addressed both components.)

Grading Criteria:

Format (10%) – Be sure to use headings and make appropriate paragraph breaks. Also, you **MUST** provide proper citations for your articles. These should be either at the beginning of your paper or at the end of the paper. The format of the citations should follow SAF, SSSA, CBE or similar guidelines. Double-space and use 1” margins on all sides of the manuscript. The length must be 3-7 pages. Each additional page below or above this range will result in a 10% grade reduction.

Review Quality (70%) – Compose your manuscript in a manner that conveys an understanding of the topic. Avoid stating only the obvious points of significance to forestry, but do not omit the obvious points. Creative and well-supported potential applications of your selected topic will indicate that you understood the issue and took the time to carefully consider the assignment.

Spelling/ Grammar/ Composition (15%) - Craft your document carefully to avoid the appearance of a non-professional paper. Proofreading is a must.

Use of Additional References (5%) – You must cite at least three sources in the development of your manuscript, but the use of additional articles will improve the quality of your paper. It is important to integrate the information from your sources smoothly into your document. Avoid simple listings of the findings of others. Let your reader (me) know why the additional references are salient to the issue you are addressing.

Note: You may select a different topic at any time, but I must approve the topic.

GENERAL COMMENTS FOR IMPROVING YOUR WRITING

(These may or may not apply to everyone's papers, but the suggestions can help everyone in the future. Remember that the purpose of writing is to communicate to an audience, so anything you do to improve clarity is good.)

1. Organize your paper into sections that flow in a logical order that facilitates a clear conveyance of the ideas that you are trying to communicate. Use descriptive headings to signal to the reader that you are "shifting gears".
2. If you have paragraphs that are longer than ½ of a page, you should look to see if breaking up the large paragraph into smaller units will better organize the material and help the reader.
3. Be careful starting sentences with words like "This", "that" and "It", since this construct is vague. Example: in my last sentence it was clear to write "...this construct is vague", but it would be vague to simply write "...this is vague"—what is vague: the construct. Be clear about what "This" is, and "that" objective can be accomplished in a number of ways. Watch for these constructs during your proofreading. "This" usually is clear when you are writing, since you are the one with the thought. After reading what you wrote, you are in the seat of the "audience", so you should assume that you don't have any prior knowledge.
4. Be very sparing with the use of direct quotations. In general, using direct quotations is appropriate for providing emphasis on a particular point. Quoting entire thoughts in a paper does not convey your understanding of the thoughts, and direct quoting will not facilitate the integration of the cited author's comments into your particular topic.
5. When you make a statement of fact (e.g. ... ice cream texture is creamiest if the temperature is 33 degrees Fahrenheit), you need to provide support for that assertion. What reference provided you with this tidbit of useful information? Your overall work/paper is bolstered by citing related works that have been vetted by others.