Grading criteria for research proposals   BSC 3402L

Title - 5 pt
No credit if the subject of the research is not clear from the title

Question - 5 pt
No credit if no question is articulated or if the question is not addressed by the research

Why this question 30 pt
-5 for each missing citation to the PRIMARY literature. There should be two and only those for primary literature count.
- 5 for incorrect method of citation (e.g. footnotes rather than author-date
-10 if no context for the hypothesis is developed or if it is not based on the literature.
No credit if the proposed project has nothing to do with pollination biology, but grade the rest of the proposal as if they had proposed an appropriate question.
-10 for intentionally doing a demonstration of what is already known rather than trying to answer a question.

Logic: 20 pt.
-10 if the null hypothesis is not stated correctly as a hypothesis of no effect or no difference.
-10 if the hypotheses don't actually address the question posed.
-5 if the alternative hypothesis suggests only that there will be a difference, not the direction of the difference.
If the student proposes more than 2 hypotheses, reduce the number of points you take off to take this into account.

Design:15 pt.
-10 if the design is not appropriate for testing the null hypothesis proposed.
- 5 (each)if there is no appropriate control (and one is necessary), if the design lacks replication, or if treatment factors are confounded.

Statistical trt: 15 pt
-5 for not identifying the variable(s) that are being comparing between groups.
- 10 if for not specifying a specific statistical procedure, or for specifying the wrong procedure (adjust so that there is no extra penalty for those who are conducting more than one analysis).

Literature cited: 10 pt
-3 for major departures from the correct format (e.g. no title or no journal name)
-3 for including articles that are not actually cited in the text.
-5 if there is only one citation
-3 if citations are not in alphabetical order.

-10 points for 3 or more errors that should have been picked up in proof reading - e.g. misspelled words, obvious typos - like whole words missing (grammatical errors don't count).