**Format for a Research Proposal**

**1. Abstract** (should be about one half page double spaced)

* + what you propose to do,
  + why it is important to do,
  + how you propose to conduct the research, and
  + what you expect your significant results to be.
  + *[You will use this abstract, with revisions, in your final report.]*

**2. Introduction** (relevant background information; cite your sources!)

* Outline the life cycle of WNV, including the vectors and reservoir hosts
* *What are the environmental variables that could affect the incidence of WNV?*
* Discuss when WNV entered the country, and how long it took to spread to the West Coast. *Why was it able to spread so fast?*
* Discuss the importance of WNV compared to other kinds of infectious disease, especially kinds of encephalitis vectored by mosquitoes. Include the symptoms and mortality rate for WNV infections. *What is the age group of people most at risk for WNV neuroinvasive disease?*
* List your objectives for this project.
* [*Note that you will only include those aspects of the ecology of WNV that are relevant to your objective(s).]*
* *[Unless you change your objectives after submitting your proposal or find very recent sources, this section may be used as is in your final report.]*

**3. Materials and Methods:**

* Describe how you will conduct this research project.
* Telling which web sites you will use is appropriate, but be sure to tell which information will be found on each. (*Use sentences, not a list*.)
* Tell which data you will use from each site and how you will use that data, for example, *I will graph average monthly precipitation (from the US HCN) against prevalence of human WNV (from the CDC) in [my home area] from 1999 through 2011.*
* *[You will change verbs in this section to the past tense (see the Format for a Scientific Research Report), but unless you change what you proposed to do, that is the only change you will need to make in this section for your final report.]*

**4. Results –** Since you have none yet, omit this section.

**5. Discussion –** None yet; omit.

**6. Acknowledgements** – None yet; omit.

**7. Literature Cited**

* You must list every source cited in your paper.
* *NOTE*: In-text citations and the Literature Cited section are both required in scientific writing*. Every source used must be both cited in the appropriate place in the text of your paper and listed in this section. Do not list any sources that are not cited.*
* *[This section will be used in your final Report, but be sure to include any additional sources used in the Report.]*