Element	Weight	Excellent (9-10 pts)	Good (7-8 pts)
Introduction	0.15	General overview provides outstanding context for research.	General overview provides good context for research.
Research Question	0.2	Questions are insightful, descriptive, and written so that comparative relationships between experimental variables are clearly understood	Questions are mostly descriptive, and written so that comparative relationships between experimental variables are mostly clearly understood
Hypotheses	0.2	Null and alternative hypotheses thoroughly describe baseline and treatment conditions and clearly illustrate relationships between independent and dependent variables.	Null and alternative hypotheses mostly describe baseline and treatment conditions and mostly illustrate relationships between independent and dependent variables.
Predictions	0.2	Predictions are highly specific and tightly connected with research questions and hypotheses.	Predictions are mostly specific and well connected with research questions and hypotheses.
Experimental Design	0.2	Materials and methods are clear and complete. Design and rationale for experimental approach are well supported.	Materials and methods are mostly clear and complete. Design and rationale for experimental approach are mostly supported.
Format, Spelling and Grammar	0.05	Formatting, spelling, and grammar are excellent with no errors.	Formatting, spelling, and grammar are good with almost no errors.

Proficient (5-6 pts)	Partially Proficient (3-4 pts)	Incomplete or Absent (1-2 pts)
General overview provides reasonably good context for research.	General overview provides somewhat insufficient context for research.	General overview is insufficient or is absent.
Questions are reasonably descriptive, and written so that comparative relationships between experimental variables are somewhat understood.	Questions are lack descriptiveness, and written so that comparative relationships between experimental variables are incompletely understood.	Questions are not described or are written so that comparative relationships between experimental variables are not understood.
Null and alternative hypotheses somewhat describe baseline and treatment conditions and reasonably illustrate relationships between independent and dependent variables.	Null and alternative hypotheses somewhat unclearly describe baseline and treatment conditions and incompletely illustrate relationships between independent and dependent variables.	Null and alternative hypotheses clearly describe baseline and treatment conditions and clearly illustrate relationships between independent and dependent variables.
Predictions are reasonably specific and somewhat connected with research questions and hypotheses.	Predictions are somewhat unspecific and incompletely connected with research questions and hypotheses.	Predictions are not connected with research questions and hypotheses or are absent.
Materials and methods are somewhat complete. Design and rationale for experimental approach are reasonably supported.	Materials and methods are somewhat unclear and incomplete. Design and rationale for experimental approach are incompletely supported.	Materials and methods are unclear or absent. Design and rationale for experimental approach are unsupported.
Formatting, spelling, and grammar are reasonably good with few errors.	Formatting, spelling, and grammar are substandard with somewhat frequent errors.	Formatting, spelling, and grammar are unacceptable with frequent errors.