Biology Scoring Sheet for Writing Assessment  
(8/23/07)

1. **Demonstrates understanding of scientific writing:**
   - abstract summarizes key points and sections
   - each section has content appropriate to the section
   - discussion section synthesizes results with literature
   - understands what needs to be cited
   - graphics integrated into and integral to the paper
   - shows evidence of analytical thinking

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2. **Content, comprehension, and development of ideas:**
   - follows assignment
   - has sufficient data and/or information
   - evidence of original work
   - paraphrases correctly and accurately
   - conclusion captures main points
   - has a title that fits paper
   - has appropriate and challenging content
   - defines technical terms, used appropriately, not gratuitously
   - stays on topic

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3. **Structure and organization**
   - clearly organized
   - flows (has topic sentences, repetition of key words, other transitions)
   - shows an understanding of paragraphs
   - introduction sets up paper and points follow in order
   - topic sentences focus paragraphs

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4. **Documenting and Citing**
   - has adequate citing
   - sources are introduced appropriately
   - follows appropriate documentation style
   - paraphrases without excessive quoting
   - citations match references

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5. **Mechanics (any paper that receives an “unacceptable” in this section must receive an overall score of unsatisfactory)**
   - correct labeling and referencing of tables and graphs
   - correct tenses
   - punctuation, esp. comma use
   - correct sentence structure and syntax
   - correct word choice
   - subject/verb agreement (e.g., data are)
   - correct use of italics
   - concise language appropriate to science

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**Overall Score** (any paper that receives an “unacceptable” on one or more items must be assessed as unsatisfactory overall.)

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