Zoology General Grading Rubric:

The Zoology General Grading Rubric provides a consistent framework for evaluating student work throughout the semester, including assignments, projects, and lab reports. It establishes clear expectations for scientific inquiry, analysis, and documentation, guiding students in their application of the scientific method and development of critical thinking skills. Each submission will be assessed based on scientific accuracy, clarity of organization, appropriate use of terminology, and adherence to lab requirements. Areas of focus include hypothesis development, experimental design, data collection, analysis, and conclusions. Proper citation of sources, when required, and the overall quality and effort demonstrated will also be considered. This rubric ensures fair, transparent assessment while promoting growth in scientific understanding and communication.

Grading Rubric for Zoology- 100 Points				
Criteria	**Excellent**	**Good**	**Needs Improvement**	**Below Expectations**
Organization and Development *(20 pts)*	**20 pts** Clear and logical structure throughout. Ideas are fully developed with effective transitions and formatting.	**15 pts** Mostly organized and well-developed. Minor issues with flow or transitions.	**10 pts** Some organization present, but ideas may be underdeveloped or loosely connected.	**5 pts** Lacks clear structure. Ideas are poorly developed or difficult to follow.
Grammar, Mechanics, and Punctuation *(15 pts)*	**15 pts** Nearly error-free. Demonstrates strong command of grammar, mechanics, and punctuation.	**10 pts** Minor errors are present but do not impede readability or clarity.	**5 pts** Multiple errors occasionally affect clarity or readability.	**0 pts** Frequent and distracting errors significantly interfere with readability.
Scientific Content Knowledge *(40 pts)*	**40 pts** Demonstrates deep understanding of zoological concepts with accurate details and appropriate terminology.	**25 pts** Shows solid understanding of key content with generally accurate terminology and explanations.	**15 pts** Displays partial understanding; content may be unclear, incomplete, or contain inaccuracies.	**5 pts** Lacks scientific understanding or includes significant inaccuracies.
Citations *(10 pts)*	**10 pts** All sources are cited correctly in the appropriate format, with consistent in-text citations and reference list.	**6 pts** Sources are cited with minor formatting issues or inconsistencies.	**3 pts** Some sources are cited, but the formatting is inconsistent or incomplete.	**0 pts** Sources are not cited, or the citation format is incorrect throughout.
Quality *(20 pts)*	**20 pts** Work exceeds expectations. Demonstrates high effort, accuracy, and attention to detail. (18–20 pts)	**15 pts** Meets expectations with appropriate depth and accuracy.	**10 pts** Adequately completes the task but may lack detail or refinement.	**5 pts** Work is incomplete, off-task, or demonstrates minimal effort.

Plagiarism Policy Reminder

American High School upholds the highest standards of academic integrity and expects all students to demonstrate honesty and responsibility in their academic work. Academic integrity is a fundamental value of our school community, requiring students to complete their own work and appropriately acknowledge the ideas and words of others.

This expectation also includes the responsible use of technology. The excessive or inappropriate use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools to complete assignments, tests, or projects — in place of a student's own effort — is considered a violation of the school's academic integrity policy. Any instance of plagiarism — defined as presenting another person's work, ideas, or expressions as one's own — is a serious violation of school policy. Students found in violation of the plagiarism policy will face disciplinary consequences.

Students are encouraged to review the full policy to ensure a clear understanding of expectations and consequences.

Click [here](#) to read the updated Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Policy.