**RESEARCH PROPOSAL TEMPLATE**

Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary

Summer Undergraduate/Graduate Research Internship

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

**TITLE**

A good title will clue the reader into the topic.

**INTRODUCTION**

Topic Area: Follow the title with a strong introduction. The introduction provides a brief overview telling a fairly well informed, but non-specialist reader what the proposal is about. It might be short, but it should be very clearly written.

Question(s)/Hypothesis(es): Once the topic is established, come right to the point. What are you doing? What specific issue/question/hypothesis will your work address? Very briefly (remember, this is still the introduction), say how you will approach the work and what we will learn from your work.

Significance: Why is this work important? Show why it is important to answer this particular question. What are the implications of researching this topic? How does it link to other knowledge? How will it inform other research and management in this field? Why is it important to our understanding of the system being studied? It should also state why is it important to support or fund the project.

**LITERATURE REVIEW**

State of our knowledge: The purpose of the literature review is to situate your research in the context of what is already known about the topic. It need not be exhaustive, but it needs to show how your work will benefit the whole. It should provide the theoretical basis for your work, show what others have already done in this area, and set the stage for your work.

In a literature review, you should give the reader enough ties to the literature so that they feel confident that you have found, read, and assimilated the literature in the field. The flow should move from general to more focused studies, or perhaps use historical progression to develop the story. It need not be exhaustive; relevance is 'key'.

Outstanding questions: This is where you present the deficiencies in the knowledge already known in that area, and by doing so situate your work within that topic. It is the place where you establish that your work will fit in and be significant to the discipline.

##### **METHODOLOGY**

Overview of approach: This section should make clear to the reader the way you intend to approach the research question, and the techniques and logic you will use to address it.

Data Collection: This might include the field site description, a description of the instruments you will use, and particularly the data that you anticipate collecting. But, the emphasis in this section should be to specifically describe the parameters and type of data that you will be sampling/collecting in your study. The purpose of doing this is to detect flaws in your plan *before* they become problems in the research you propose.

Data Analysis: This should explain in some detail how you would manipulate the data that you assembled in order to get the information that you will use to answer your question. It will include the statistical or other techniques, and the tools that you will use in processing the data. It should also include the range of outcomes you could reasonably expect from your observations.

Interpretation:In this section you should indicate how the range of anticipated outcomes might be interpreted to answer the research question. It is extremely beneficial to anticipate the range of outcomes from your analysis, and to know what each might mean with regards to the answer to your question.

##### **CITED LITERATURE**

This is the list of the relevant works you cited. Use a standard format. Order the references alphabetically.