INSERT YOUR TITLE HERE USING UPPER CASE FONT. USE DOUBLE-SPACING IF the TITLE is longer THAN ONE LINE. Check spelling carefully

By

Insert your name here

A Thesis Presented to

The Faculty of Humboldt State University

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Arts in [Insert Your Program: Option, if applicable]

Committee Membership

Dr. [insert faculty name], Committee Chair

Dr. [insert faculty name], Committee Member

Dr. [insert faculty name], Committee Member

Dr. [insert faculty name], Program Graduate Coordinator

Month Year

ABSTRACT

INSERT YOUR TITLE, THE TITLE ON THE ABSTRACT IS SINGLE-SPACED IF LONGER THAN ONE LINE

Insert your name

Begin typing the text of your abstract here. The Abstract should summarize the contents of your thesis or project and should be able to stand alone. Emphasis should be on what you found. The Abstract should include the following elements: the key topic or problem, your main approach (methods), one or two important results, and a brief discussion/interpretation of your results or a note of your main conclusion. For examples of abstracts, see the [Graduate Studies website](https://gradprograms.humboldt.edu/content/thesis-project-help), the [Thesis Canvas Course](https://canvas.humboldt.edu/enroll/JLG3CM), or completed HSU theses on [Humboldt Digital Commons](https://digitalcommons.humboldt.edu/etd/). Abstracts are read by those who are trying to decide whether or not to read the main document, or who want to get the big picture before reading the main document. The Abstract should not exceed 250 words (approximately 1.5 pages). Literature citations and footnotes are not allowed. Page numbers on the preliminary pages are lower case Roman numerals placed center-bottom. The title page is not numbered, but is assumed to be page “i”. Therefore, the first page of the abstract is page “ii”.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Begin the text of your acknowledgements here. Acknowledgements are optional, unless your study was funded. If you received funding for your graduate project be sure to list the source. This is your chance to thank all of the people who helped you in designing, carrying out, and writing your project. If you are not including an acknowledgements section delete this page.

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The Table of Contents (TOC), List of Tables, and List of Figures are automatic. There is no need to type anything into them. When you have finished adding all text to the template, right-click in the Table of Contents, select the option “Update Field” and fill in the circle “Update Entire Table,” then click “OK.” If you applied the appropriate style (e.g., Heading 1 etc.) to your headings in the text, the headings and page numbers will update automatically when you update the TOC. **Delete this text box when you are done**.

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INTRODUCTION

A thesis is the written product of a systematic study of a significant problem. It identifies the problem, states the major assumptions, explains the significance of the undertaking, sets forth the sources for and methods of gathering information, analyzes the data, and offers a conclusion or recommendation. The finished product evidences originality, critical and independent thinking, appropriate organization and format, and thorough documentation.

The Introduction section should set the context for the work to be reported. It should also establish the purpose and importance of that work and answer the question, “What did you study?” Per the State of California’s Title 5 Education Code, this is where you will “clearly identify the problem, state the major assumptions, [and] explain the significance of the undertaking.”

Body text page numbers will start with Arabic numerals starting with “1” in the upper right-hand corner. Insert a running header by typing your title in the header area on this page and the next. The running header has a 50-character limit, so you may have to shorten the title. The running header on this first page only will include the words “Running head.” Otherwise, the title is ALL CAPS.

Theses should be typed in Times New Roman 12-point font. You may reduce the font size to 10pt within tables or figures to fit within margins. Text must be double spaced, except for captions, quoted passages that may be indented and single-spaced for emphasis, or within the Table of Contents or List of Figures/Tables when a heading or caption title wraps to a second line. Text must be left aligned. To see the paragraph, page, and section breaks throughout the document, click the ¶ symbol under the home tab.

Please install the latest version of Microsoft Word by downloading the free Microsoft Office software suite at <https://hsu-forms.humboldt.edu/software/>.

## Styles

This template makes use of a feature in Microsoft Word called Styles. Styles enable you to build an automatic table of contents, consistently format headings, and create a tagged accessible PDF. Each heading level one (e.g. INTRODUCTION) should be ALL CAPS, left-justified, and placed at the top of a new page. Be sure to check for misspellings in all uppercase words. Microsoft Word spelling check does not work with all uppercase words.

ASA headings 1 through 3 are already set up in this template. The built-in heading styles need to be applied to each heading in your document. Regardless of the number of heading levels, always use headings in order beginning with level one. For help using Styles or updating the Tables of Contents refer to the [Thesis Canvas Course](https://canvas.humboldt.edu/enroll/JLG3CM) sections on [Headings and Subheadings](https://canvas.humboldt.edu/courses/13836/pages/headings-and-subheadings?module_item_id=119262) and [Table of Contents](https://canvas.humboldt.edu/courses/13836/pages/table-of-contents-list-of-tables-and-list-of-figures?module_item_id=123187).

Heading Level Two

If you want to have subheadings within your major sections (i.e. Introduction, Methods, Data Analysis, Discussion) use heading level two. Heading level two subheadings are italicized and left-justified. Use title case, which means capitalizing the first letter of all principle words in the title.

Heading level three.

Heading level three titles are subheadings under heading level two. Heading level three is indented, italicized and left-justified. Capitalize only the first word of the heading (a style known as sentence case) and end with a period.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Insert your literature review here.

METHODS

Begin your methods section here. The methods section describes what you used and how you did your study. This section must be sufficiently detailed so that a reasonably competent colleague would be able to repeat your work. Reproducibility is an essential cornerstone of the scientific method. This section should include your research design or approach; population and/or sample; collection and tabulation of data; and data analysis procedures. Be sure to avoid unnecessary details about common laboratory equipment (e.g. microscopes, balances, notebooks, etc.) and procedures (e.g. standard statistical analyses).

If you worked with vertebrate animals, your Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval number and date must be included in your methods. If you worked with Human Subjects in your research, your Institutional Review Board (IRB**)** approval number and date must be included in your methods.

Your methods may require a detailed description of the study site. The study site section can be a sub-section within your methods or it can be a stand-alone section just before the methods section. It is always a good idea to provide a site map of where you conducted your study.

Tables

If you will present data in table form, use the “Insert Table” tool to create accessible tables in your document. Tables should have clear column headings to provide context and assist in navigation of the table’s contents (Table 1). Identify the top row of the table as a header row in the Table Tools, Layout tab. **Note**: Do not use tabs or spaces to create tables, or import a table as an image. It may look like a table; however, it will not be accessible or readable by assistive technologies. Avoid merging or splitting cells. All rows and columns should have the same number of cells. Keep tables from breaking over pages unless the table is too long to fit on a single page.

Table 1. Example of a Table Layout

| Column Head | Column Head | Column Head | Column Head |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Row 1 |  |  |  |
| Row 2 |  |  |  |
| Row 3 |  |  |  |

Captions and alternative text.

Captions should be placed above the table. You add captions by using the “Insert Caption” feature found in the Microsoft Word references tab. This will allow you to automatically update the List of Tables in the preliminary pages of this template. Using captions will also sequentially number your tables (Table 1, Table 2, etc.), allowing you to refer to them in the text. Alternative text can be added by right-clicking the table, selecting Table Properties, and selecting the Alt Text tab. For help using Tables refer to the [Thesis Canvas Course](https://canvas.humboldt.edu/enroll/JLG3CM) section on [Tables](https://canvas.humboldt.edu/courses/13836/pages/tables?module_item_id=119261).

Figures

Alternative text and captions.

Alternative text (Alt Text) is a word or phrase that conveys the same essential information as the figure. Alternative text allows people with screen readers to understand the content of your pictures, charts, graphs, and tables. You will need to add alternative text in order to comply with the accessibility requirements. It is unnecessary to begin a description with “photo of” or “picture of”. If the information contained in the figure is fully described in the document text or in the figure caption enter “refer to text” or “refer to caption” in the Alt Text description box (Figure 1).

To enter Alt Text, right-click the figure and select the Edit Alt Text option. Captions should be placed under the figure. Use the “Insert Caption” feature found in the Microsoft Word references tab to insert a caption. This will allow you to automatically update the List of Figures in the preliminary pages of this template. Using captions will also sequentially number your figures (Figure1, Figure 2, etc.), allowing you to refer to them in the text. For help using Figures refer to the [Thesis Canvas Course](https://canvas.humboldt.edu/enroll/JLG3CM) section on [Figures](https://canvas.humboldt.edu/courses/13836/pages/figures?module_item_id=119886).



Figure 1. An example of using patterns and labels to address accessibility

Resolution and color.

Figures should have high enough resolution to be read and understood easily (at least 300 dpi). Color cannot be used as the only means to convey context or information. To check if an image will be colorblind accessible, click on your image, select the Format tab, then Color, and Grayscale, and then evaluate if any meaning is lost when viewed in this manner. Options include using patterns instead of solid colors or lines, using colorblind accessible color schemes (see [http://colorbrewer2.org](http://colorbrewer2.org/) for options), using text signifiers to differentiate information, or if none of these options are possible, using expanded captions or alternative text to summarize the primary takeaway of the figure. Note: This should not in any way discourage the use of color on a page, or even color coding if it is accompanied by other visual indications.

DATA ANALYSIS

Begin your data analysis section here. In this section you present your findings. This is harder than it seems because often you are presenting data. Sometimes, data can be effectively presented in tables or figures. However, anything you present must be meaningful and should never be redundant. That is, you do not have to present every scrap of data. And you should not present the same data in a table and figure. If you present the majority of data in a table, use the text to point out the highlights from that table.

In scientific writing, one-digit numbers are usually given word names (e.g. one, two, etc.) when mentioned in the text. Numbers with two or more digits are not spelled out (e.g. 10, 11, etc.). A fraction is always spelled out in the text unless it is part of a mixed fraction that is large enough to be expressed by numerals. Numerals are used to express quantities combined with abbreviations and symbols.

Decimals and percentages are expressed in Arabic numerals. Note that unless it follows a number (e.g., 50%), “percent” or “percentage” is correct. Use only “%” in tables and figures. For table entries with a value less than one, always precede the decimal point with a "0" (e.g. 0.24 not .24).

All reported measurements and units should be metric (if this is the convention in your discipline). Abbreviations of units should be consistent and standard. Avoid the use of periods after abbreviations (cm not cm.). Be consistent in your usage. If you use cm for centimeters, use m for meters. Acronyms should be used sparingly. Spell out the acronym the first time it is mentioned (e.g., “Data were acquired by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)”) and then use the acronym for every subsequent mention.

DISCUSSION

Insert the text of your Discussion here. This is your chance to compare and contrast the results of your experiment or study with the previously published works of others. It also gives you a chance to present the principles, relationships, and generalizations shown by your results. You should, however, discuss and interpret your results, not just summarize your results. You should also point out any inconsistencies, exceptions, or lack of correlation in your results and offer possible explanations. Practical or theoretical implications of your work should also be noted. The discussion section is also the appropriate place to make recommendations for future research (if not included in a separate section).

CONCLUSIONS, SUMMARY OR RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions, recommendations or a summary may be included after the discussion. However, it is not required. Recommendations might be particularly appropriate if the work was done for a sponsoring agency to solve some problem in resource management. If you select ‘Summary’ as your header for this section you should summarize the entire research effort.

REFERENCES

Insert references here. Please check with your committee and style manual for specific requirements.

The Humboldt State University Library has information about citing your sources and citation management systems. [HSU Library Citing Your Sources](http://libguides.humboldt.edu/cite)

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Instructions for appendices

Appendices are used to include material too detailed or lengthy for inclusion in the body of the study (e.g., questionnaires, maps, photos, and letters of permission). If your document has one appendix, the heading should read “APPENDIX” and you do not need a List of Appendices page. If there are two or more appendices, the heading should read “APPENDICES” followed by alphabetically labeled captions (Appendix A, Appendix B, etc.) in the order they are referenced in your document. To do this, select Insert a Caption through the Reference tab and select the “Appendix” label. Once you’ve labelled all Appendices (Appendix A, Appendix B, etc.), you will be able to automatically update the List of Appendices in the preliminary pages of this template. Instructions for inserting captions and creating a linked list of appendices are available on the [Thesis Canvas Course](https://canvas.humboldt.edu/enroll/JLG3CM) section on [Appendices](https://canvas.humboldt.edu/courses/13836/pages/appendices?module_item_id=249919).

Appendix B: Tables and figures

Each appendix should start at the top of a new page. Tables and figures in the appendix may be placed horizontally or vertically on the page. If the table/figure is aligned vertically, the caption must be aligned vertically.