**The “Introduction Section” In-class Peer Review Exercise**

***Note*:** You will be assessed on your peer review and this will count as a portion of your overall grade in this class. The peer review process is an important and fundamental practice in science. You will be graded on the thoroughness of your peer review and you must demonstrate strong critical thinking skills, while clearly demonstrating that you have a complete understanding of the structure of a Research Proposal’s Introduction Section. Read through the Guiding Questions below and use these questions to assist with your complete peer review. After reading the draft section you will be reviewing, complete the “Peer Review” form, *in great detail*, according to the list of Guiding Questions below. Then, on the back of your Peer Review form, you will complete the “Self Reflection and Action Plan” exercise (to be written on white board while you are working).

**Guiding Questions:**

1. Is there a clear statement of the research question at the top of the document? Is it specific or vague? What are the strengths of this research question? What are the weaknesses? How can it be improved?
2. Does the first paragraph of the “Introduction” clearly articulate a clear and well-organized description of the larger context (broad statement) for this research? How can this be improved?
3. Does the author demonstrate a logical flow from the larger context to the specific research question(s)? Think about the “inverted triangle” example. What are the strengths of their writing skills in this regard? What are the weaknesses and how can the author improve?
4. In the final paragraph of the Introduction section, does the author clearly link their research focus to both 1) previous studies AND 2) future implications? How could they improve upon this?
5. Are their an adequate number of supporting citations that clearly demonstrate a thorough search of the literature and a strong understanding of their topic? Where can the literature search be improved and in what areas would you like to see more evidence (i.e. more citations)?
6. Explain the writing style. Is it choppy? Does it flow well? Is it difficult to read? Is it logically laid out in an easy-to-read manner? What are the strengths of the writing style? What are the weaknesses of the writing style and how can the author improve?
7. Formatting: Lastly, check for punctuation, grammatical errors, citation format, etc. and make general formatting edits when necessary.
8. Final assessment: What is your overall assessment of the draft you have just edited? Take a moment and explain to the author your overall assessment of their work.