

## Research Topic Scorecard

While every research question (or hypothesis) cannot include all of the details listed here, more specific and nuanced questions, well supported by the experimental design, will have higher scores. Give one point for each element on the list below to calculate the score.

The research topic:

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| _____ | Is testable  |
| _____ | Has alternative and null outcome(s), meaning that a negative results has a biological interpretation |
| _____ | Explains how and/or why the outcome should occur   |
| _____ | is compatible with and based on evidence   |
| _____ | Links effect to the variable measured  |
| _____ | States expected result   |
| _____ | TOTAL SCORE  |

After working through your research question with the score card, revise your statement of research or topic sentence (the last sentence(s) of your introduction) to increase its score. Aim for a 5 or higher on the scorecard.

**Revised Research Topic Sentence:**