

## Citizen Science Methods Exercise

BSC 5936-04

Spring 2015

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**Learning Objectives:** Incorporate what you have learned in the class into a written methodology that has relevance to your research.

### **Due Dates:**

**April 15:** First draft due to instructors and 5-minute, in-class presentation

**April 22:** Final draft due to instructors

Begin by identifying an aspect of your research that could involve the public. Describe the goals of this engagement in 1 or 2 sentences at the top of your submission after "**Goals:**". Describe both desired science and learning outcomes. Science outcomes might start "I wish to measure ...".

In the remainder of the 1-page, single-spaced, size-11 text, describe the methods for accomplishing these goals in the format that you would expect to see in a journal article ("I did ...") or a grant proposal ("I will ..."). The goal is to provide sufficient justification for your methods that they would stand up to review by a manuscript or proposal reviewer. For full credit, you must cite *at least* 10 references; these should include some references from the course syllabus and additional references that are relevant to your particular goals. Your submission should not be intended as the complete methods section for a paper or proposal—only that part of the methods that is relevant to public engagement in the research.

Topics in your methods should include, but are not restricted to, (1) the model of public participation that you are using (from Shirk et al., 2012; contributory, collaborative, etc.), (2) your participant recruitment strategy, (3) your data management strategy, (4) steps taken to ensure threshold data quality, and (5) your evaluation strategy. The last will benefit from the April 8 reading: Phillips et al. (2014) *User's Guide for Evaluating Learning Outcomes in Citizen Science*.

Come prepared on April 15 to present your methods section to the rest of the class. The visuals for the presentation should be limited to a projection of your methods section and perhaps as many as three slides to illustrate particulars of your study system. The audience will present feedback on your methods section and those suggestions should be incorporated into your final submission and handed in on April 22.

Grading will be based on demonstrated understanding of the literature and thorough consideration of chosen methodological topics.