Biology Honors Research Proposal Rubric
(Adapted from BioTAP, Reynolds, et al., 2009)

Student’s Name: _____________________________
Date: _____________________________

Is the proposal an appropriate length (at least 3 pages, single spaced)?  YES  NO
Is the proposal format acceptable (NIH or NSF)?  YES  NO

Higher-order Writing Issues
1. Sufficient background is included for the reader to understand the proposal (even though a formal Background and Significance Section is not required).

   Strongly agree  agree  slightly agree  slightly disagree  disagree  strongly disagree

2. The proposal clearly articulates the student’s research aims and hypotheses.

   Strongly agree  agree  slightly agree  slightly disagree  disagree  strongly disagree

3. The proposal explains clearly how data will be collected and results will be interpreted.

   Strongly agree  agree  slightly agree  slightly disagree  disagree  strongly disagree

4. The proposal provides an insightful explanation of the potential problems and alternatives

   Strongly agree  agree  slightly agree  slightly disagree  disagree  strongly disagree

5. The proposal includes a compelling discussion of the implications of the findings.

   Strongly agree  agree  slightly agree  slightly disagree  disagree  strongly disagree

Mid- and Lower-order Writing Issues
6. The proposal is clearly organized

   Strongly agree  agree  slightly agree  slightly disagree  disagree  strongly disagree
7. The proposal is free of writing errors.

Strongly agree  agree  slightly agree  slightly disagree  disagree  strongly disagree

8. [If applicable] The citations are presented consistently and professionally throughout the text and in the list of works cited.

Strongly agree  agree  slightly agree  slightly disagree  disagree  strongly disagree

**Quality of Scientific Work**
9. The proposal sets out a plan for significant scientific research and is appropriate for the length of time to be spent (one summer and senior year).

Strongly agree  agree  slightly agree  slightly disagree  disagree  strongly disagree

**Strengths:**

Weaknesses:

**Letter Grade (A, A-, B+, B-, C+, C, C-):** ___________