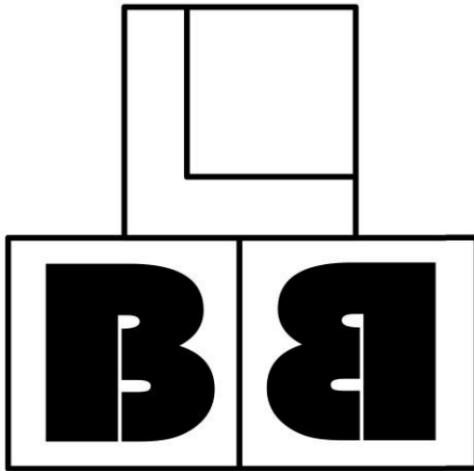


Onion Mini Growing Guide

Edition 1





Onion Mini Growing Guide - Edition 1

By Lazaros' Blank Books

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**Onion,
Cool Season Vegetable**

**Allium Cepa
Alliaceae Family**

What to know...

- Onions require full sunlight for at least 6 hours per day to flourish.**
- Onions require a well-drained soil which is fertile, high in organic matter.**
- The ideal soil pH for onions to grow is 6.2 to 6.8.**
- Onions require good moisture that will produce good harvest.**
- Onions have an annual lifecycle and they are moderately difficult to grow.**
- Onion plants reach 1 to 3 ft. (30cm to 90cm) in height and spread from 0.5 to 1 ft. (15cm to 30cm).**
- Onion plants bloom times are mid Summer and late Summer.**

- Onions require moderately warm weather and warm soil to produce good harvest.

- Onions are not native to N.America. Their origins come from Mediterranean or Asia.

- Onions have a shallow root system and require steady moisture.



Onion Mini Growing Guide

So you want to grow Onions?

Here are some important things to consider...

You can start by direct seed or buy some young plants and transplant them in your garden.

If you propagate by seed you will need to prepare your onion set by sowing seeds thickly in a block in mid Summer.

Then?

Then 2 months after you sow you must force the baby onions to produce a bulb. You can achieve this by rolling down the tops. When tops dry remove them from the plant and leave about 1/2" (1.5cm) of stem.

Store in a dry and cool place so you can plant the onion sets the coming Spring.

The germination temperatures are between 45°F and 95°F (or 7°C to 35°C). The onion plants need 4-6 days to emerge. The seeds can be stored for up to 1 year or longer in a dry, cool place.

Can you repeat the three ways I can start the onion plants?

You can start by buying young plants. Choose dark green ones that are not too tall and look alive and fresh. You can also start by direct seed indoors and then transplant in your garden. Finally you can start with onion sets which are the bulbs prepared from seed the previous season (as described above). You should avoid starting with direct seed in the garden because the plants will not have enough time to mature. On the other hand if you prefer to harvest scallions (onions before the bulb forms) then you can start by direct seeding in the garden.

What about the soil?

If you want to be successful growing onions you will need the perfect soil. A well-drained soil with the right pH of 6.2 to 6.8. It should be high in organic matter. You must also make sure you clear all the weeds on the way, this will prevent various diseases and pests. If you plant onions in one location then avoid planting them there again the next season and for the next 2-3 years.



What if I want to propagate by direct seed?

If you prefer direct seed indoors, start 9-10 weeks before last frost by planting seeds in cells or cups or in flats 1/4" (0.6cm) deep and 1/2" (1.3cm) apart. Plant 4-6 seeds per cell. Wait for the baby plants to grow. If the tops become too tall trim them so they are about 3" (7cm) tall.

Then, 3-4 weeks before the last frost date you should be ready for transplanting. Harden your plants by reducing water about 1-2 weeks before your transplant. In your garden plant baby onions 1" to 4" apart (2.5cm to 10cm. For scallions; 1" or 2.5cm) in rows 12" to 18" (30cm to 45cm) apart.

...And if I want to start with bulbs from previous season?

If you prefer to start with bulbs prepared from previous season, then follow the instructions as described above. When you want to transplant choose bulbs that are not very large or very small. About 3/4" (2cm) in diameter should be the largest you select. Then 3-4 weeks before the last frost date plant the bulbs about 1" (2.5cm) deep. Use 4" (10cm) spacings for larger bulbs or 2" (5cm) spacings for smaller ones.

How often should I water my onion plants?

Good moisture is very important for a successful harvest. Good weed control is recommended. Make sure you water your plants every day (a good time would be early in the morning). Most vegetables need daily watering so you can schedule a good time each morning to provide your garden with water.



What about pests and diseases?

You should be aware of a pest called Onion Maggot. Protect your plants with floating row covers before temperatures get too hot. Then remove the covers. As for disease you should pay attention to Purple Blotch and Botrytis Leaf Blight. To prevent these diseases from appearing, avoid wetting foliage and water your plants early in the day. Do not crowd plants, allow space for air circulation. Also, eliminate weeds and work the soil to improve air circulation. Remove all affected plant parts when the plant is not wet. When Autumn comes, destroy all fallen or diseased bulbs and leaves.

Four important factors to fight pests and avoid diseases:

[1] Pick strong, resistant varieties.

[2] Control weeds in your garden.

[3] Work the soil to improve air circulation.

[4] Avoid planting in the same space for 2-3 years.

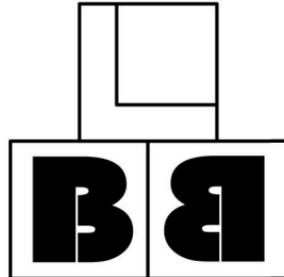


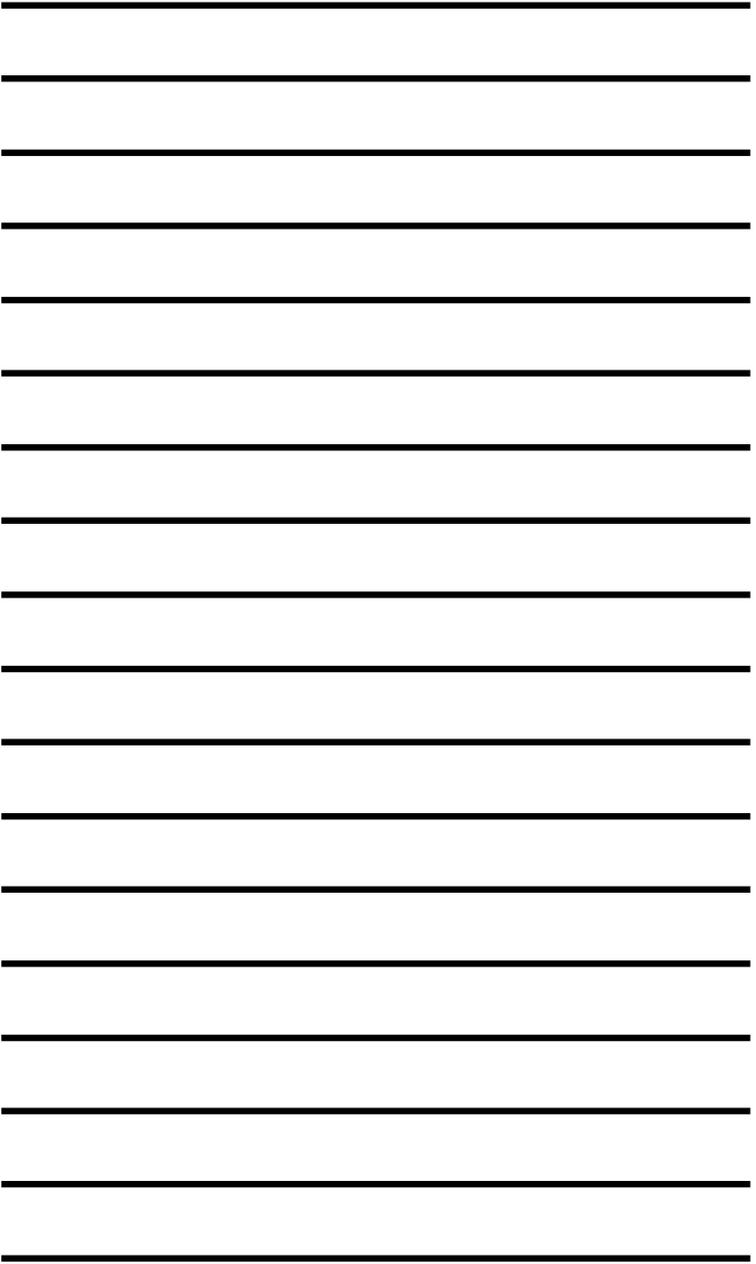
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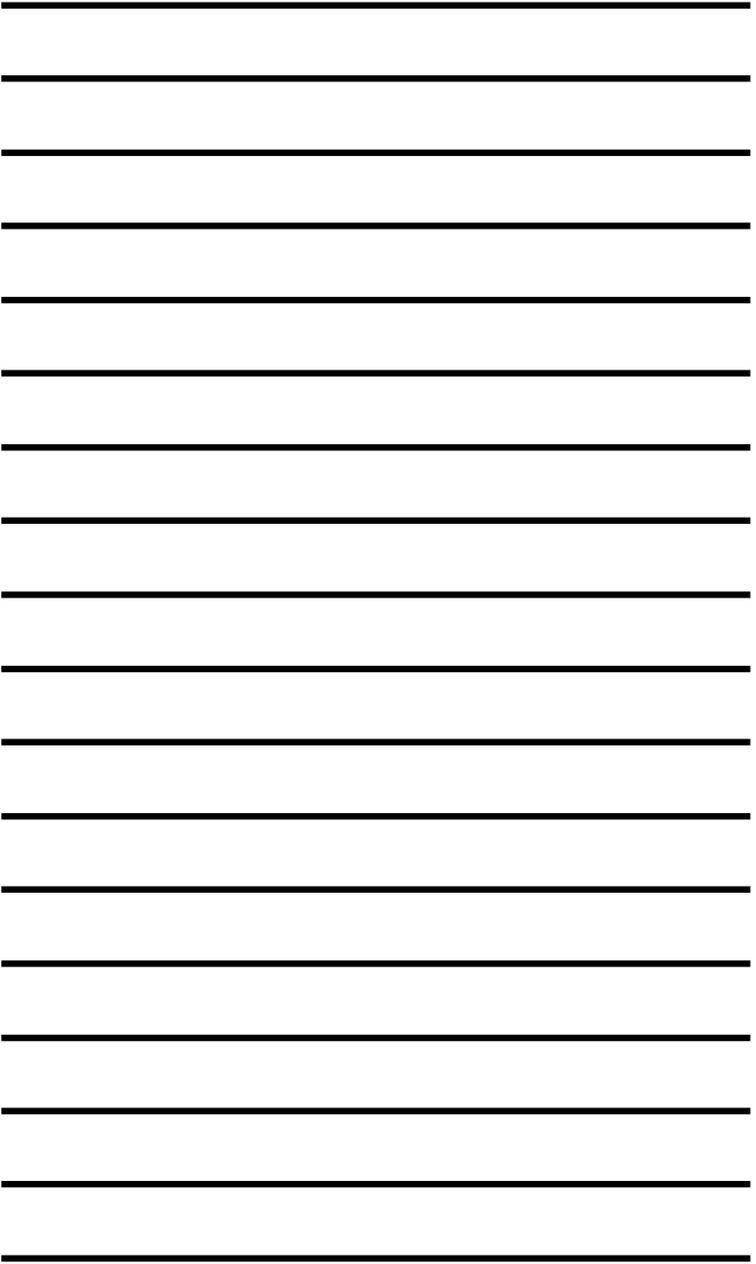
If you want to keep notes about your Onion growing progress you will find plenty of space in the following pages...

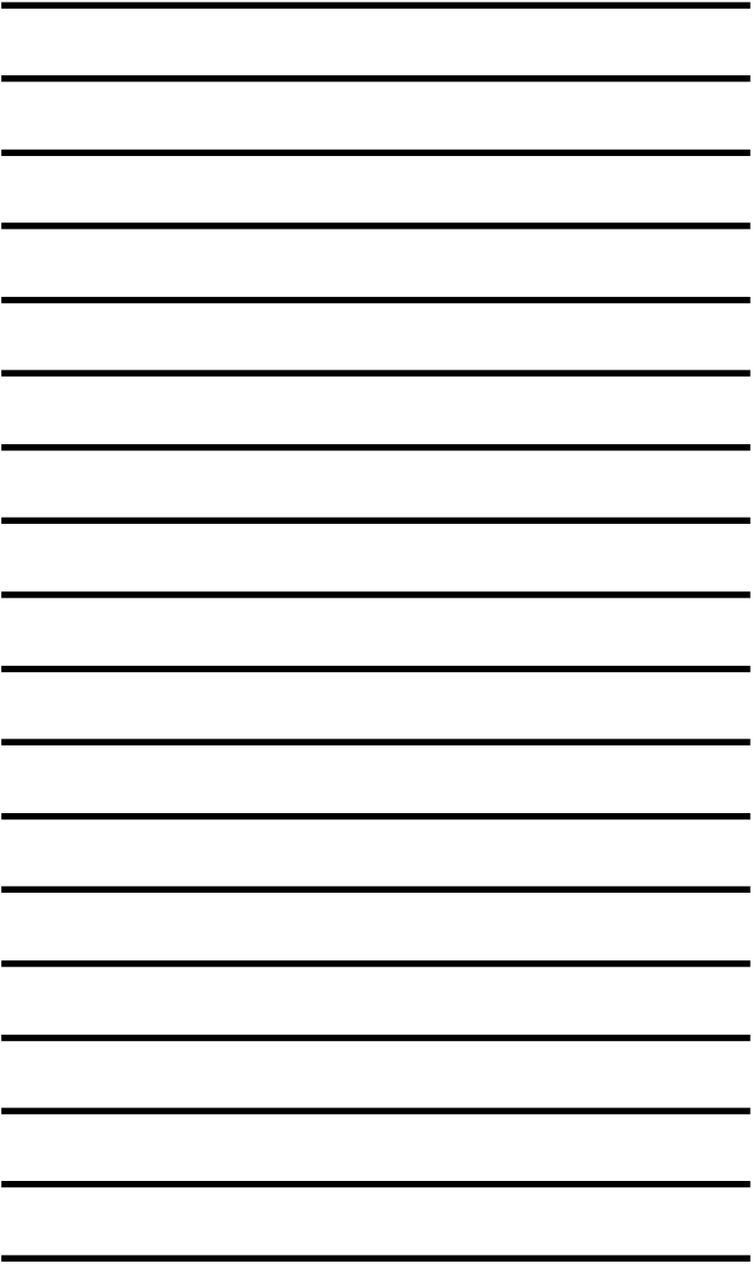
We wish you all the best.-

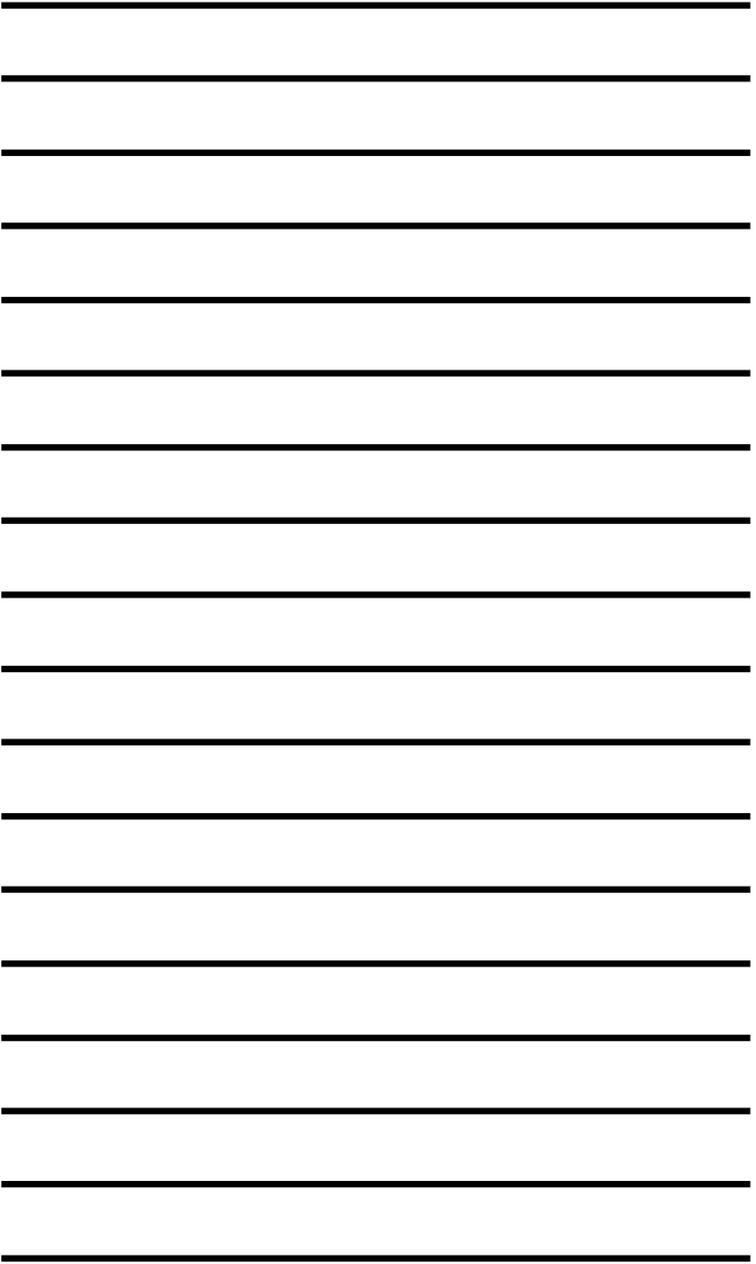
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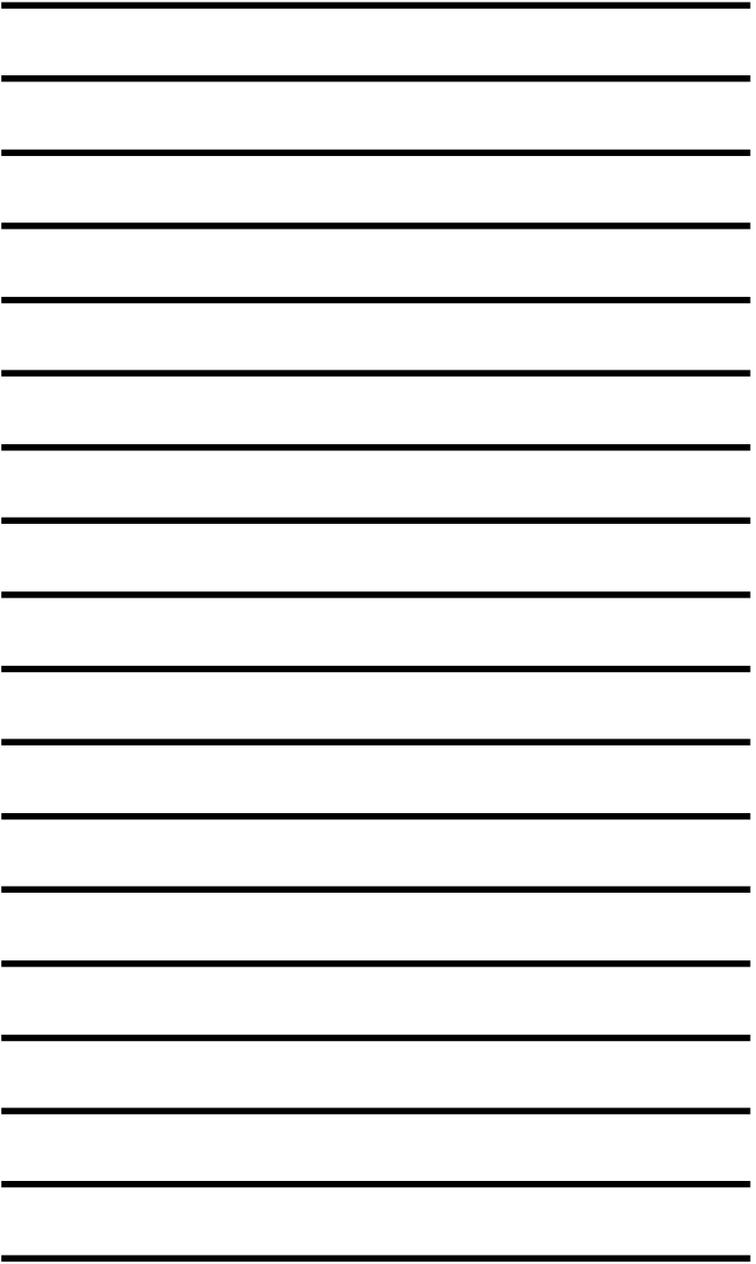


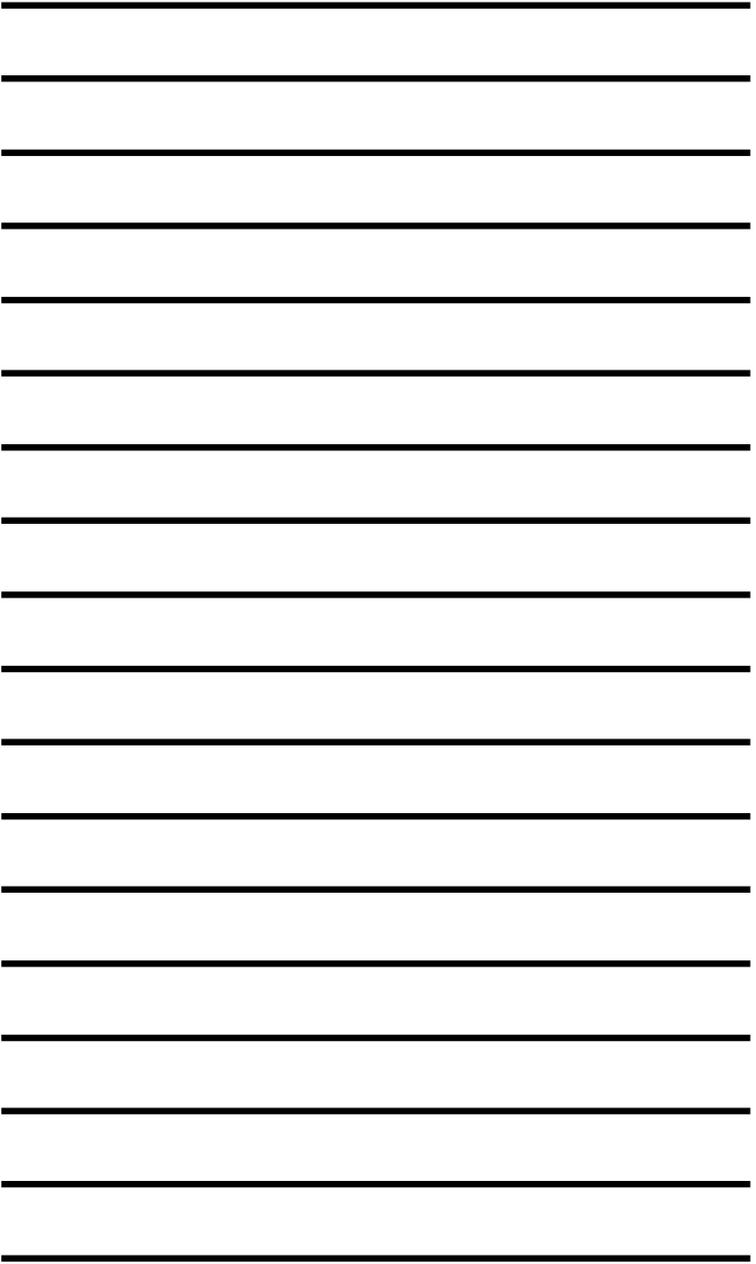


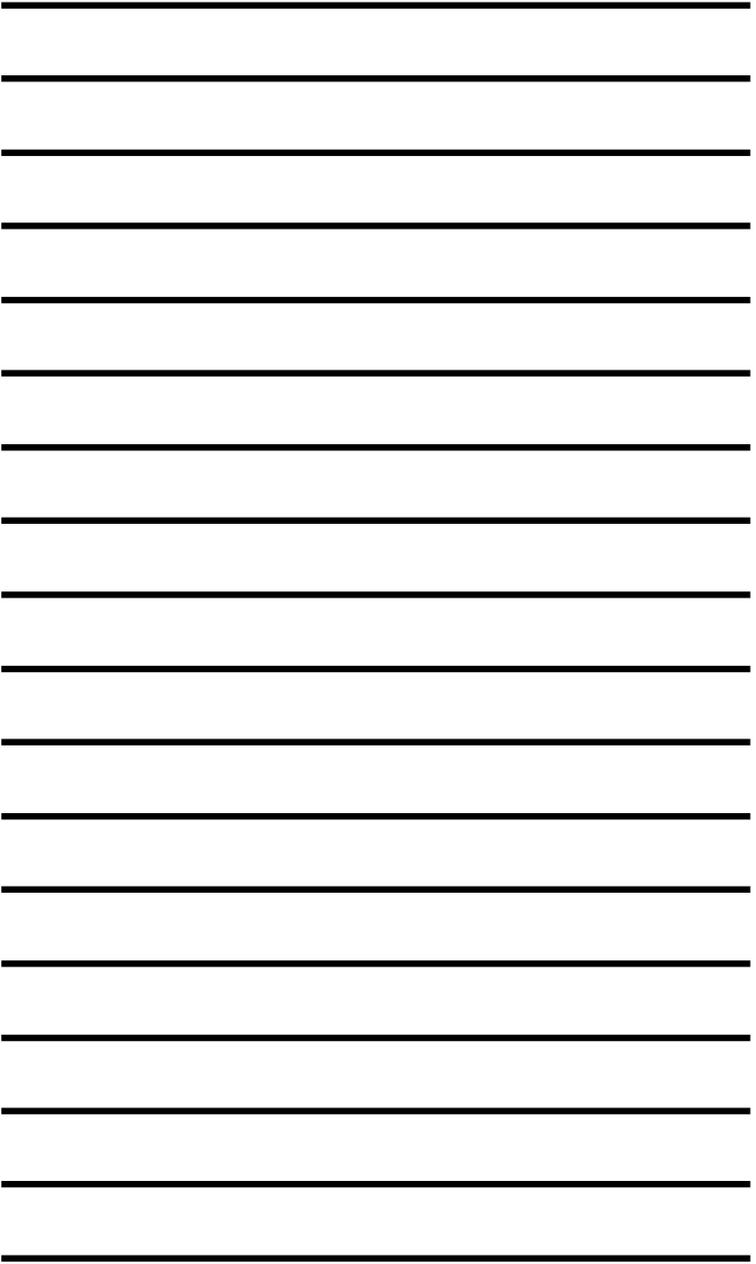


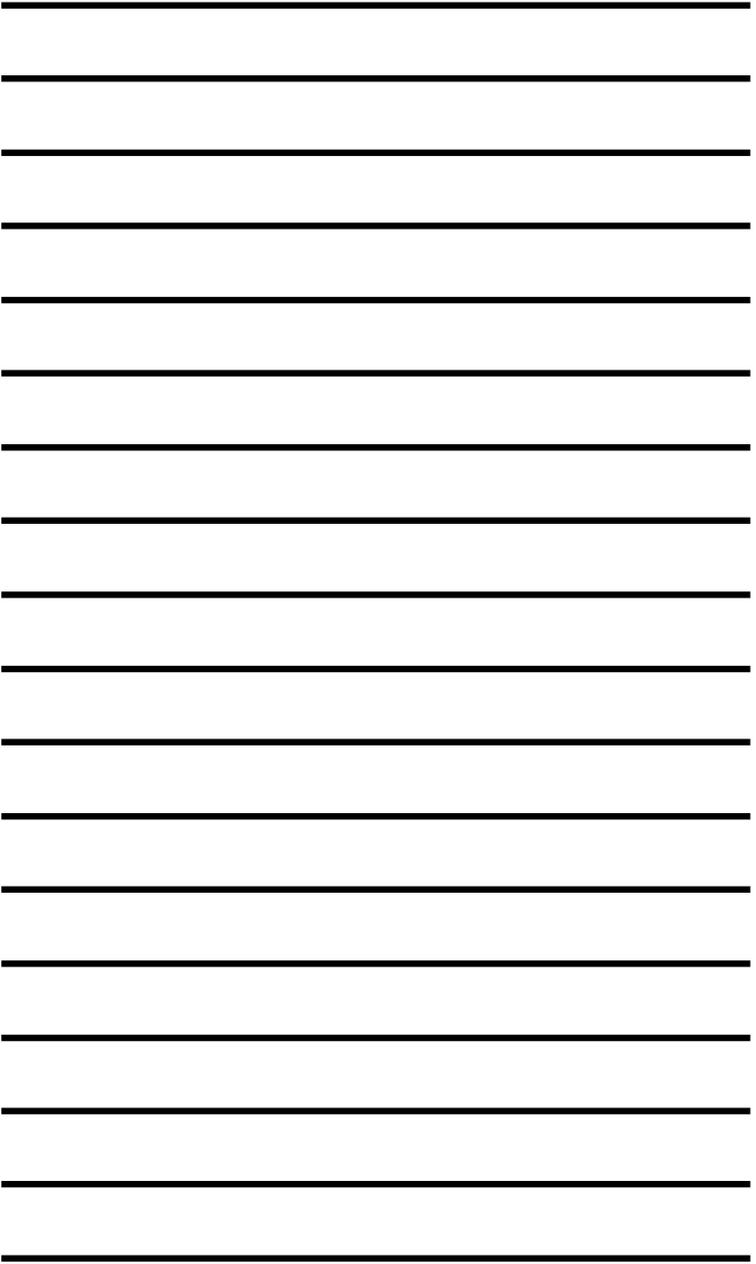


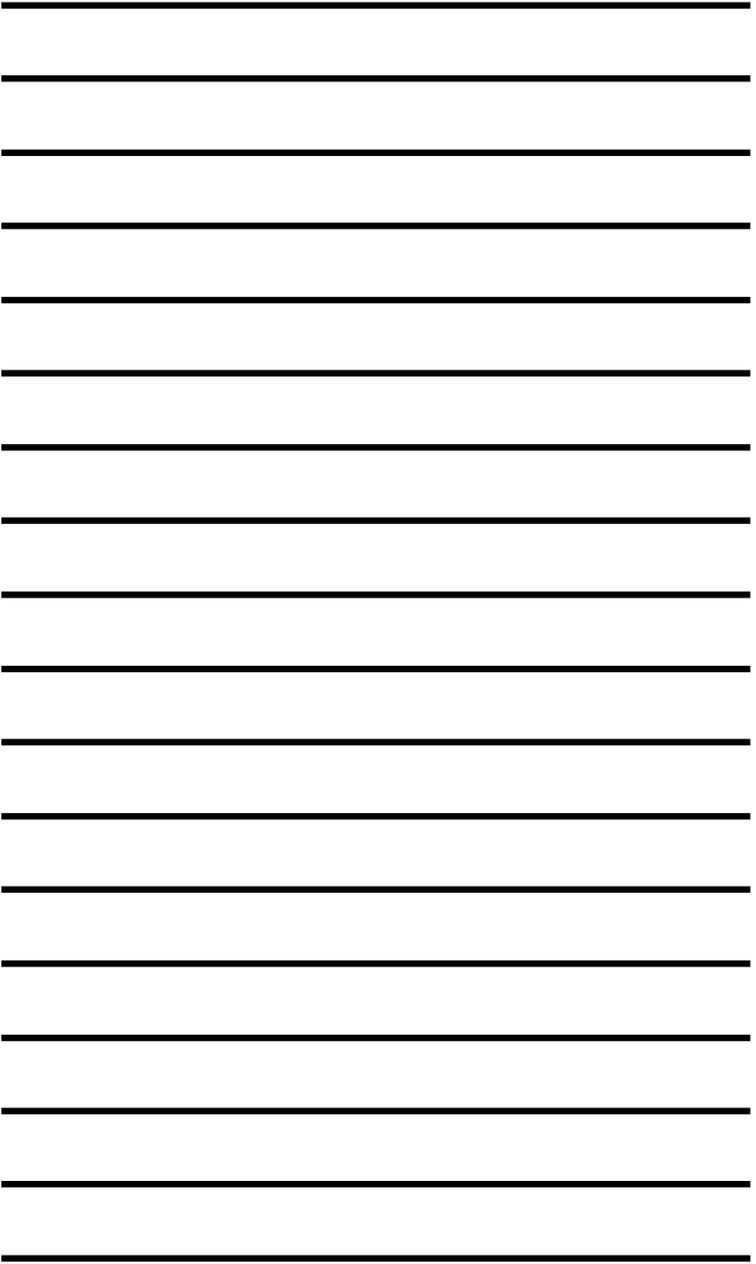


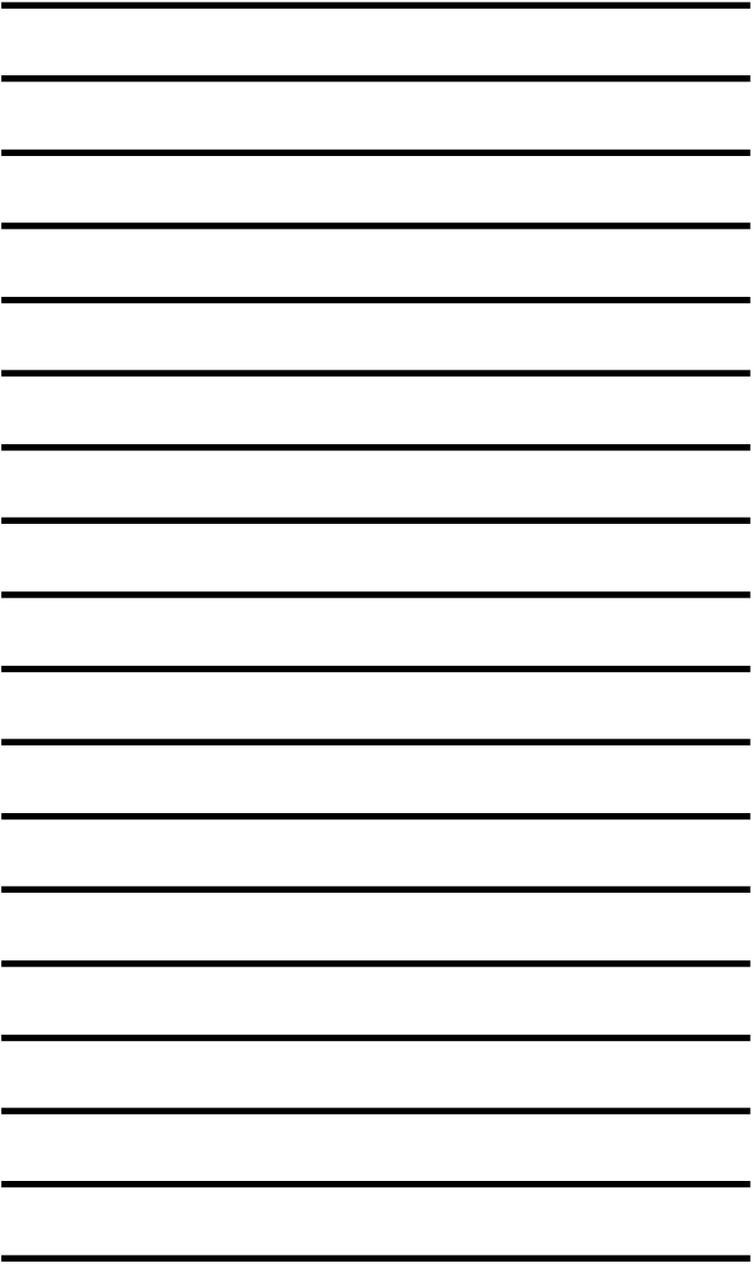


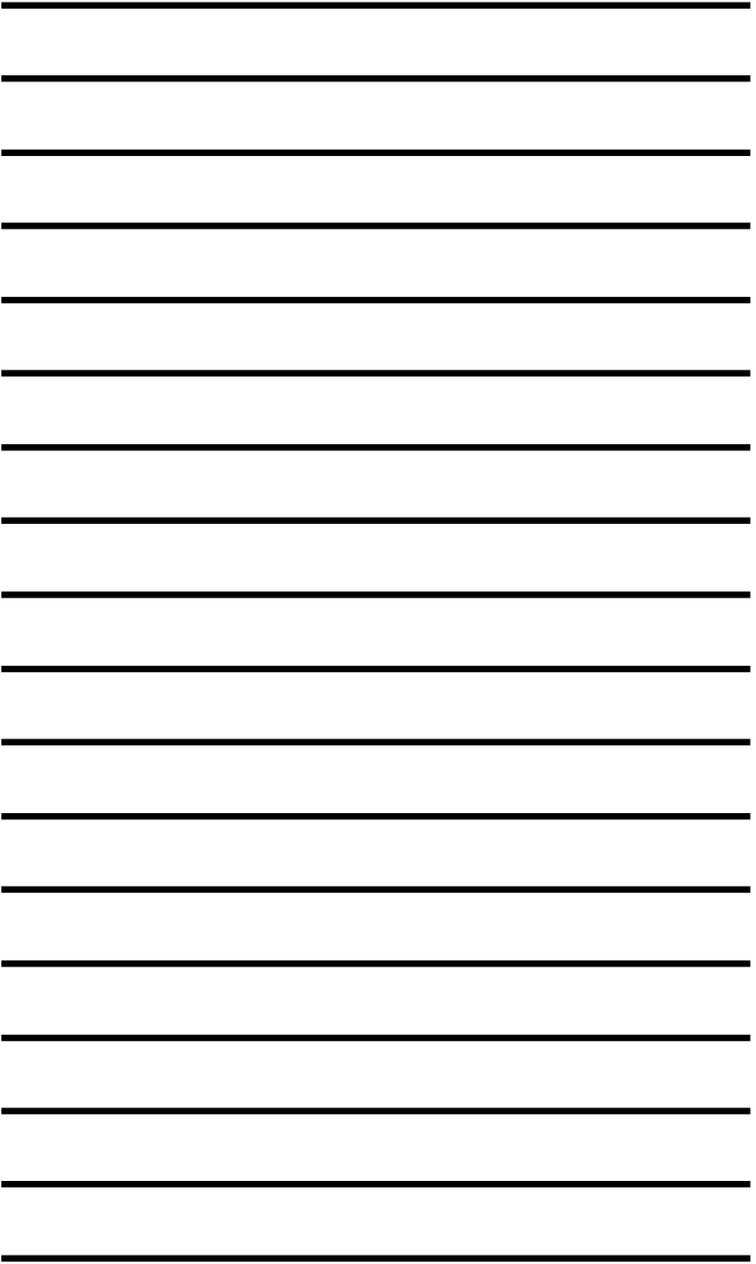


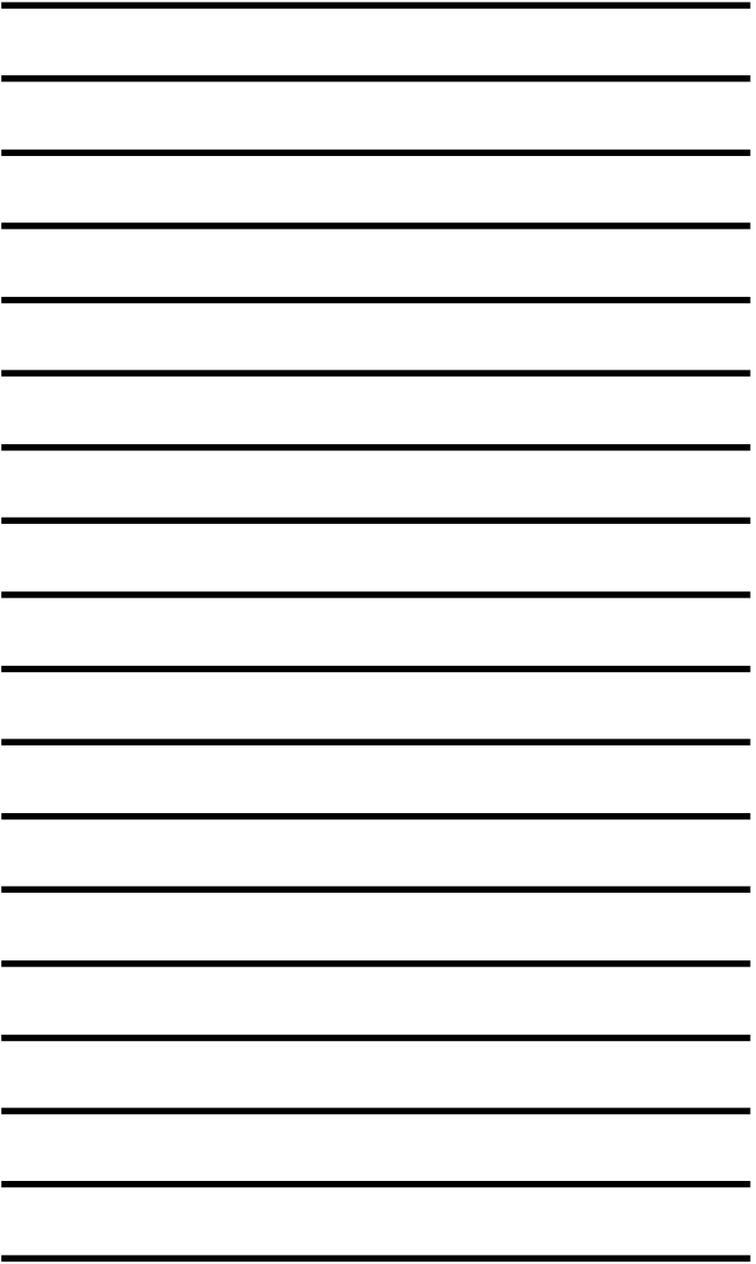


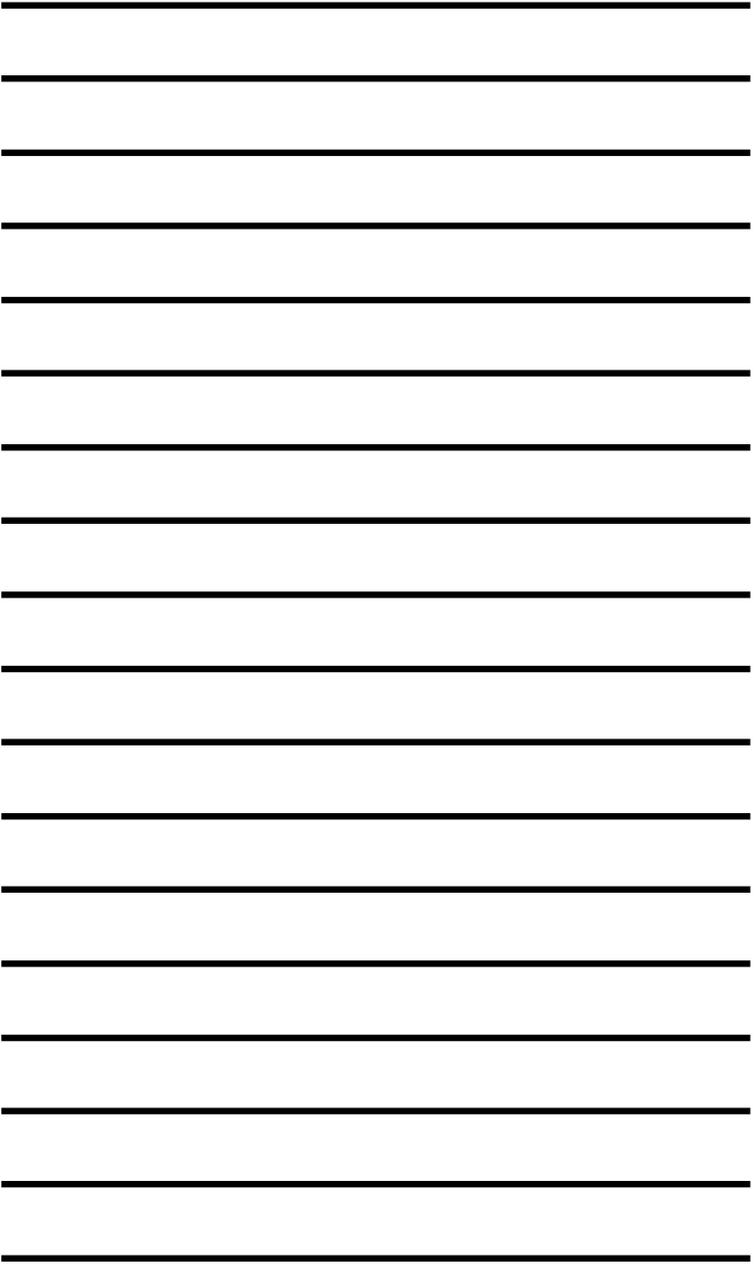


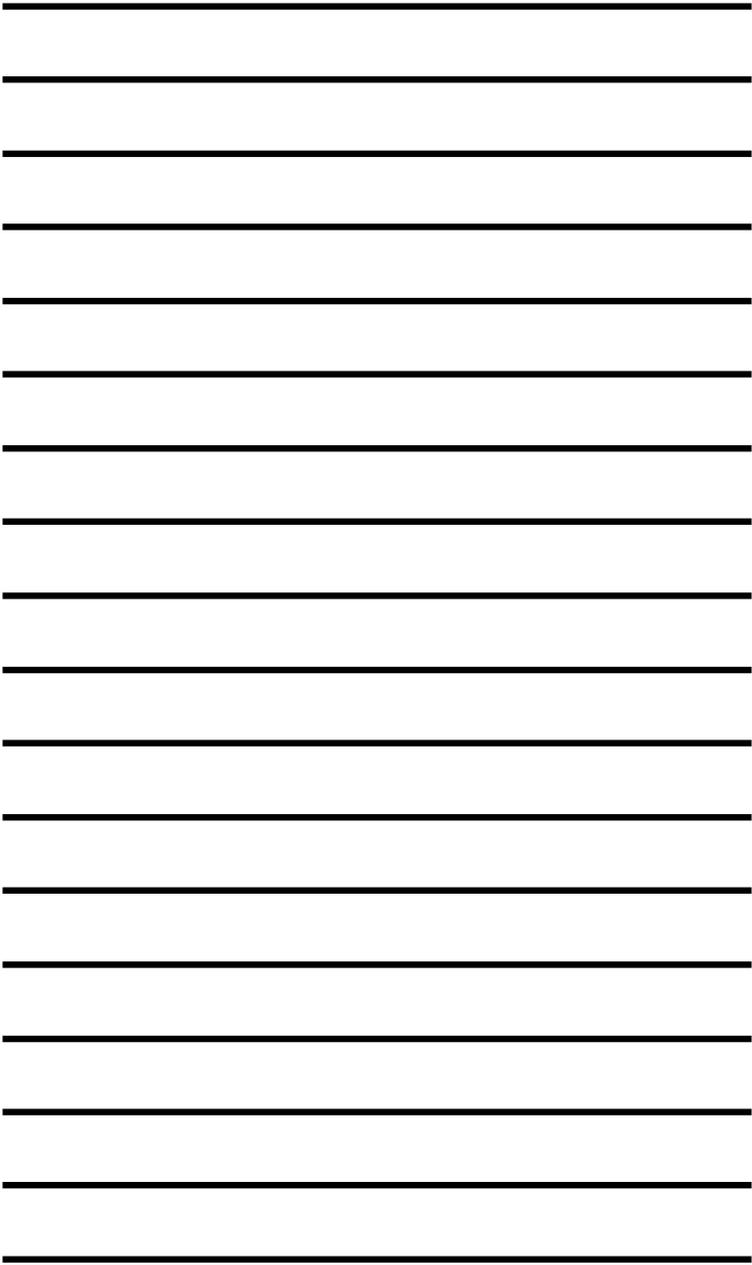


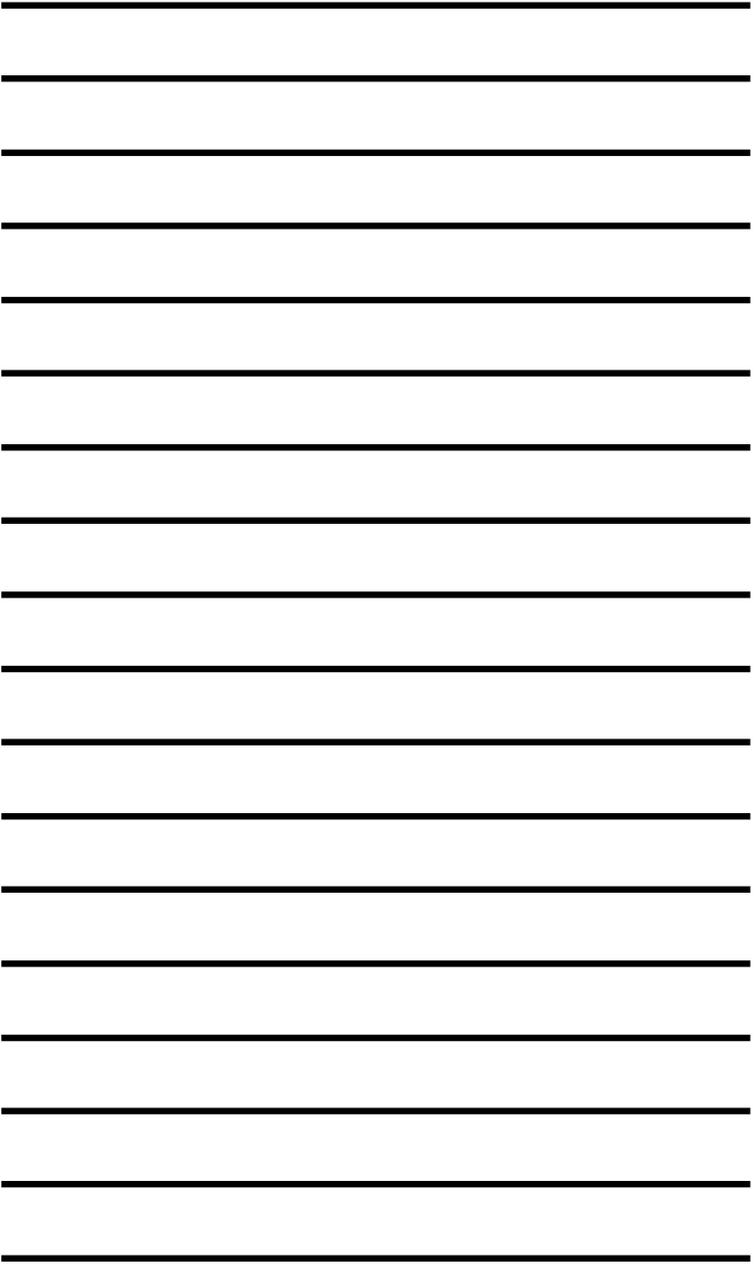


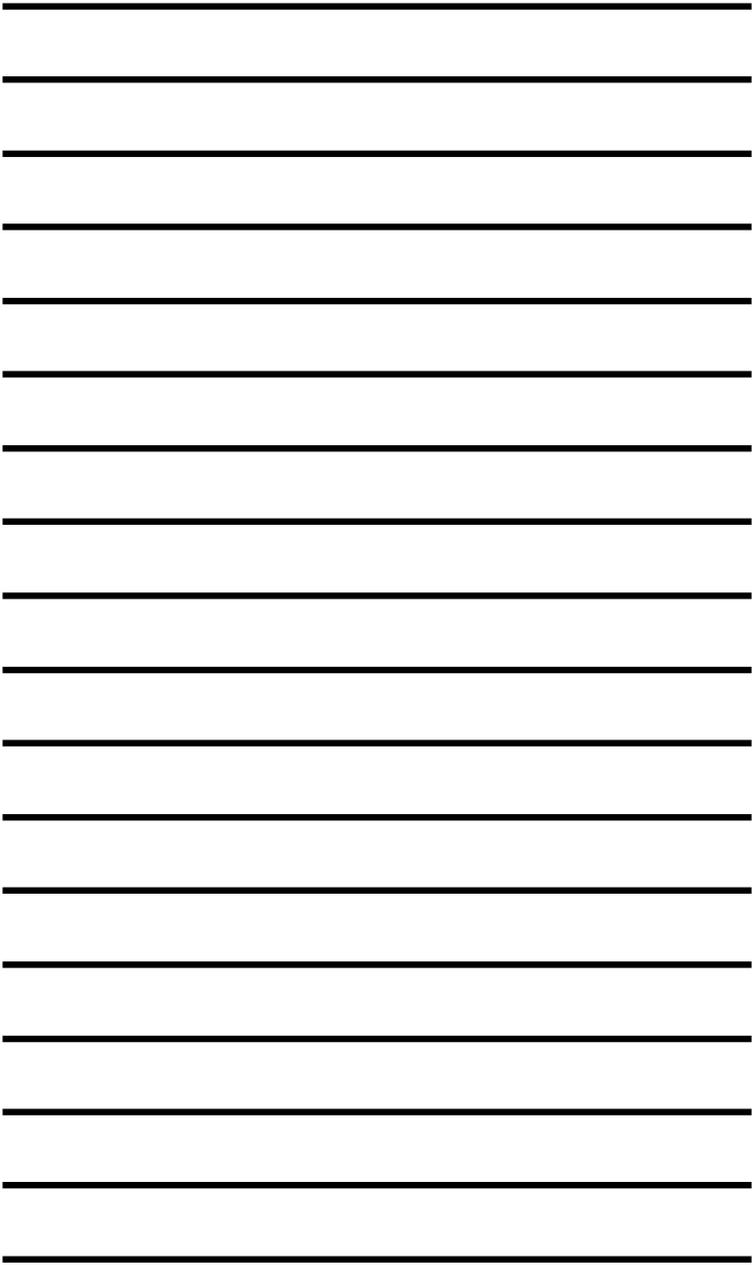


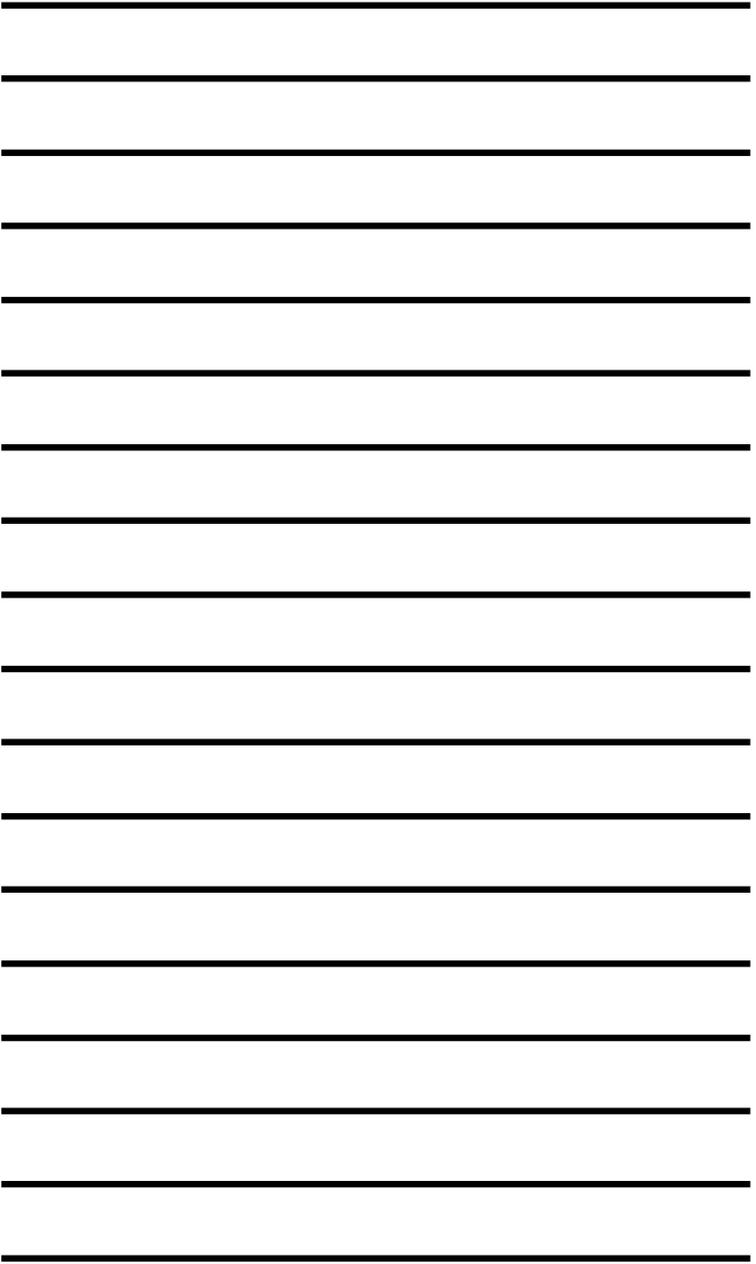


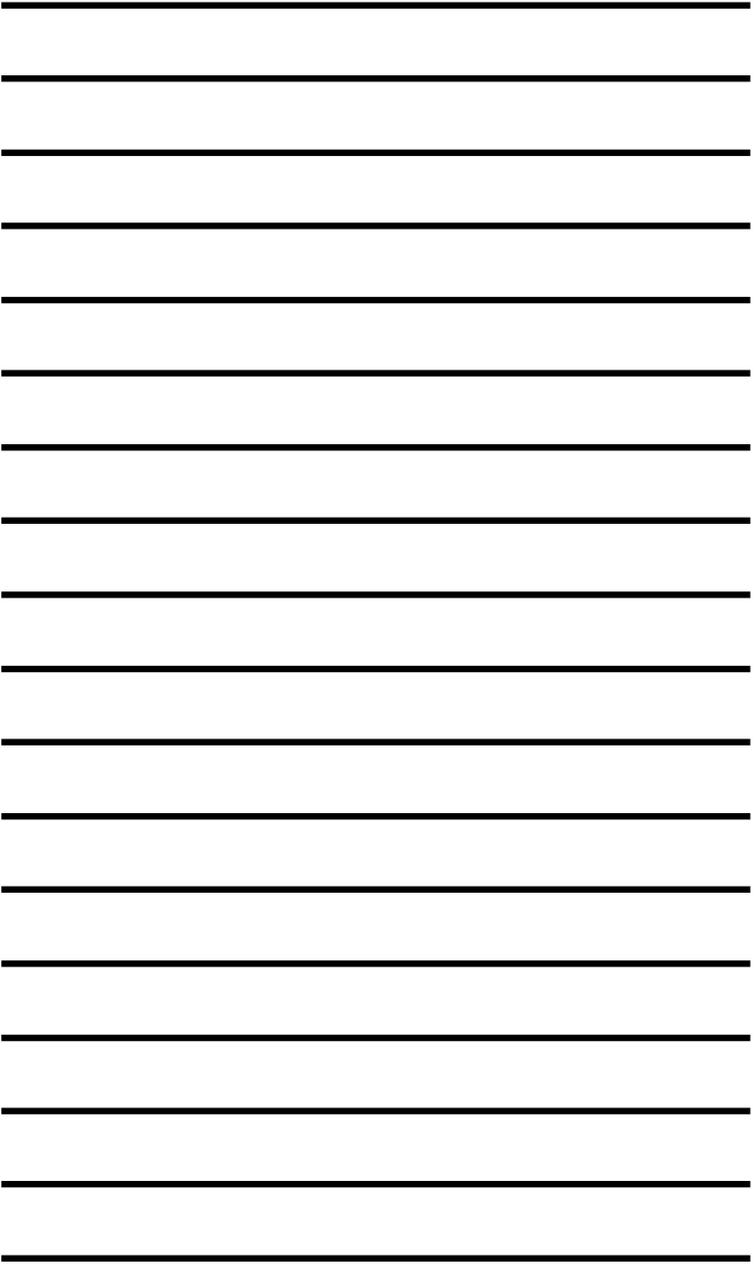


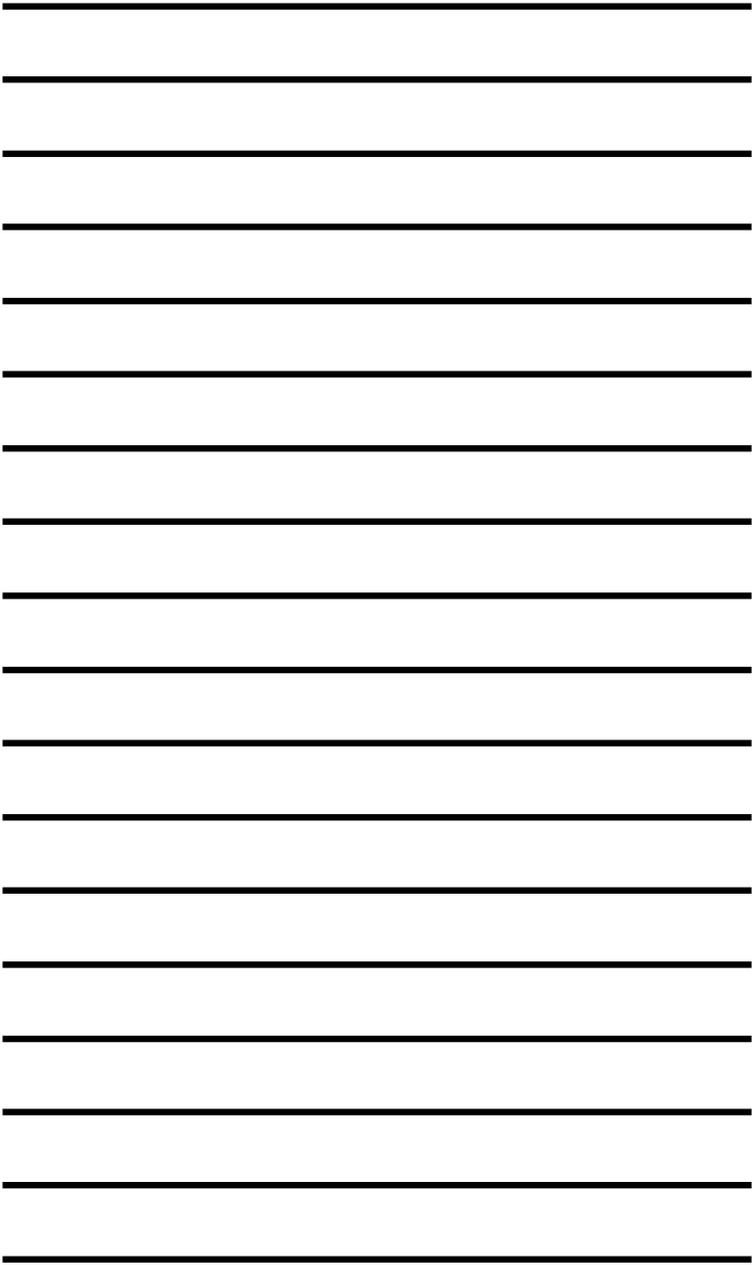


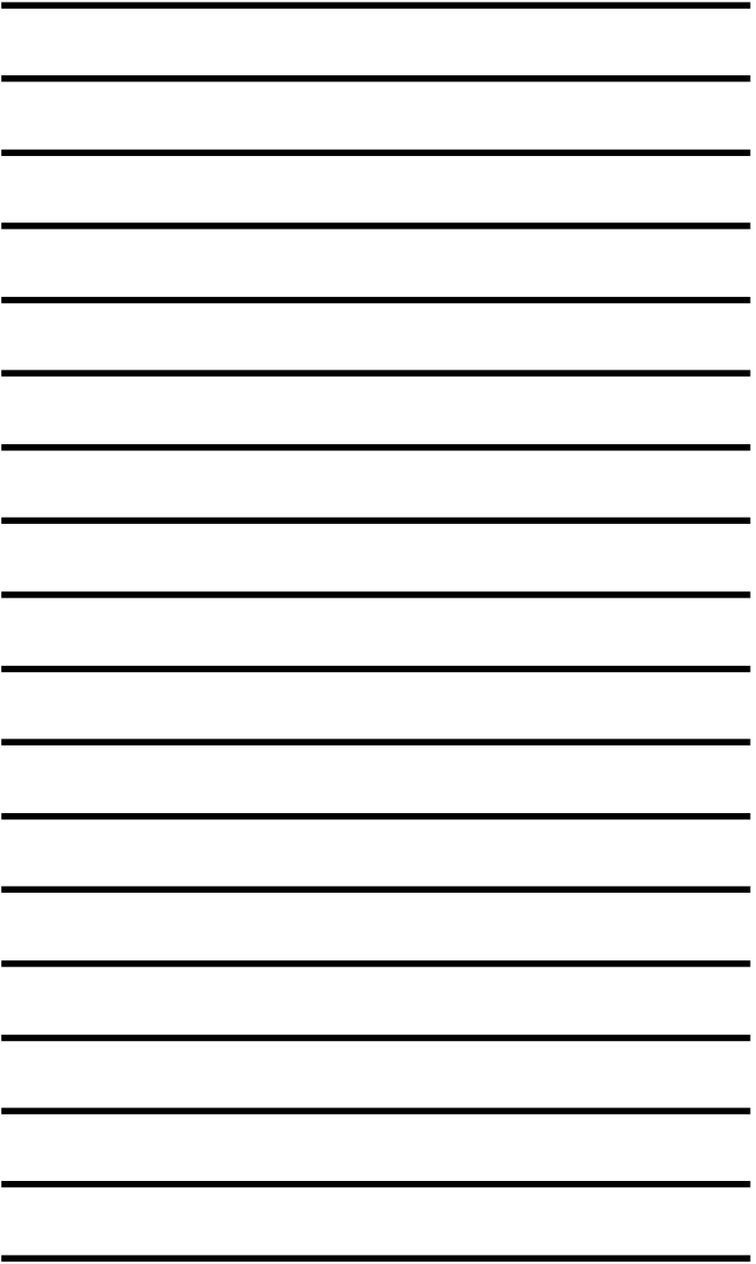


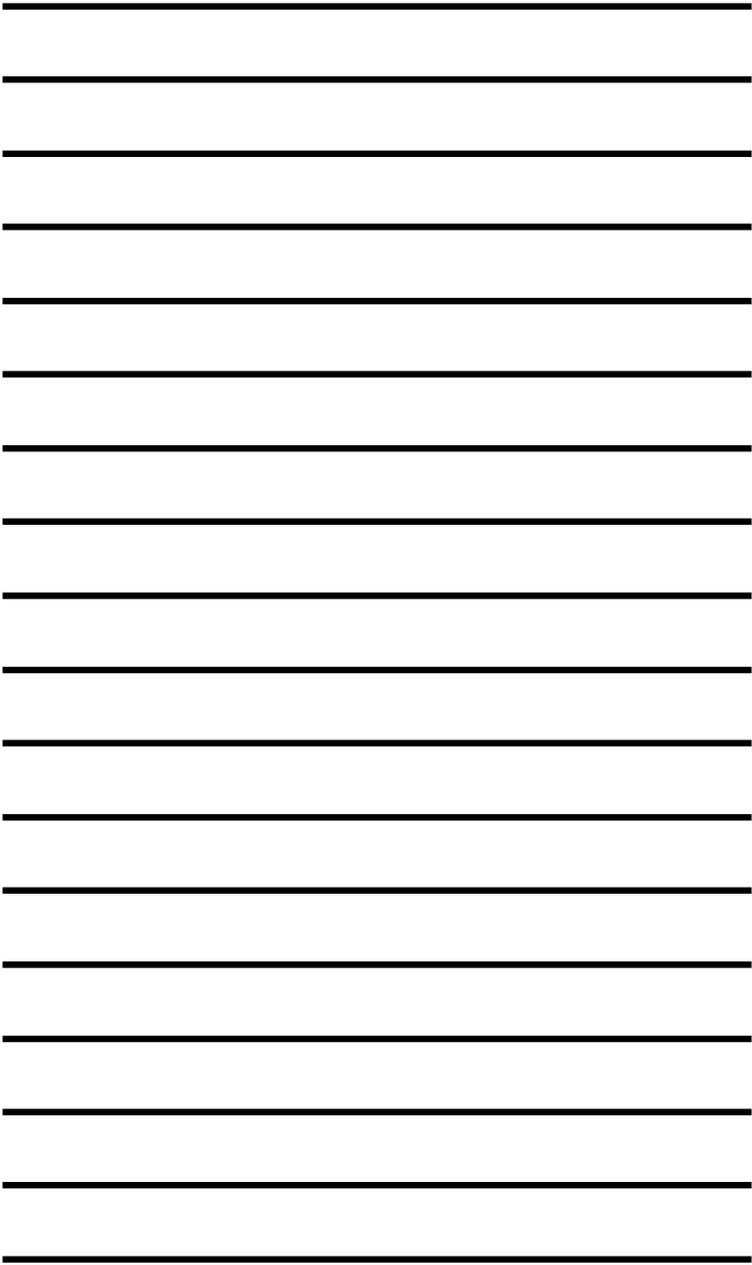


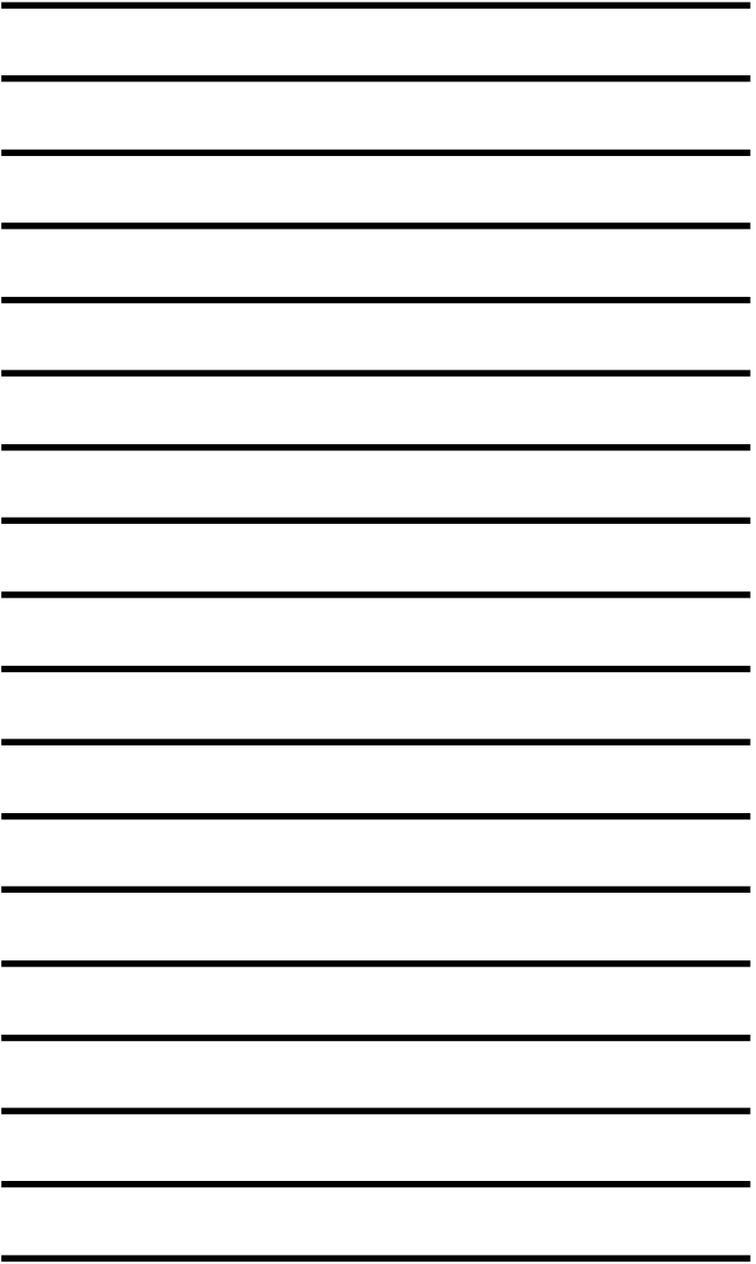


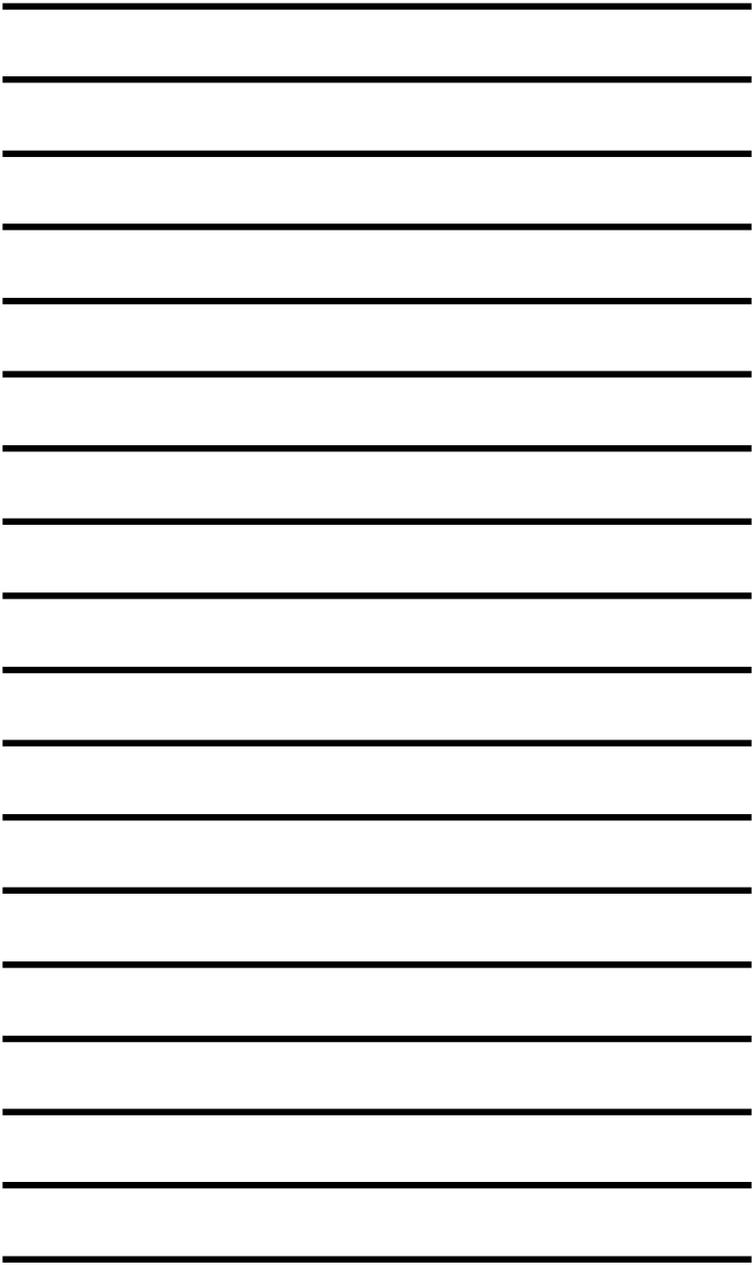


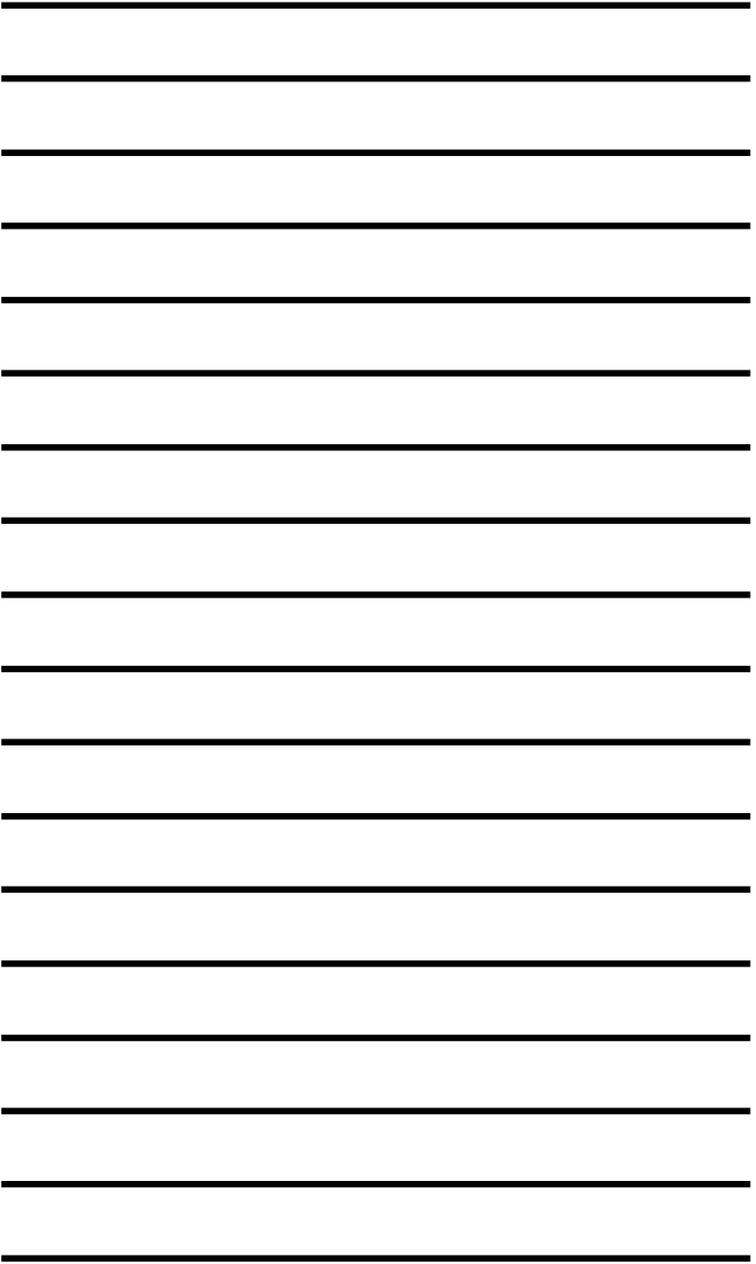












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