

## Scientific Communication Writing Assignment Rubric – Peer Evaluation

**your name:** Sasha Mikita

**assignment reviewed:** 107

Using the rubric below, please evaluate each of your assigned news articles in each of the areas shown, filling out a separate evaluation form for each news article. Please highlight the part of the rubric text that explains why you chose a specific assessment category. In the “General Feedback” section at the bottom of this form, please include more specific feedback, including things that you liked as well as things that you feel could be improved upon and suggestions on how to improve them.

	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement
<b>Content:</b> <b>Does the news article convey the writer’s understanding of a biological topic?</b>	The news article introduces a biological topic and clearly illustrates the writer’s understanding of the topic including what is known and not known about it and how understanding the biology associated with the topic helps us understand larger issues or concepts.	The news article introduces a biological topic and presents information about it, but the topic is not explained clearly or doesn’t distinguish between what is known vs. what is not known or doesn’t explain how understanding the biology associated with the topic helps us understand larger issues or concepts.	The news article does not illustrate the writers understanding of the topic and does not indicate what is known vs. what is not known or how understanding the biology associated with the topic helps us understand larger issues or concepts.
<b>Audience:</b> <b>Is the writing appropriate for the target audience?</b>	The news article avoids jargon and clearly defines terms and ideas for a non-expert audience.	The news article defines or explains some terms, but some key terms or ideas would be challenging for a non-expert audience.	The news article lacks definitions and explanations, making the topic inaccessible to a non-expert audience.
<b>Organization:</b> <b>Is the news article clearly organized?</b>	The news article is well organized and easy to follow with good transitions between the paragraphs.	The news article is generally organized and easy to follow but conceptual connections aren’t always clear.	The news article is disorganized, and the information presented doesn’t flow well.

Rubric continues on next page

	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement
<b>Format, spelling &amp; grammar:</b> <b>Does the news article follow the recommended format and is it free of writing errors?</b>	The news article follows guidelines for paper length and format and has been carefully proofread for spelling and grammatical mistakes.	The news article is outside the recommended length or does not conform to the formatting guidelines; the news article contains a small number of spelling and/or grammatical errors.	The news article is significantly outside the recommended length and does not conform to the formatting guidelines; the news article contains numerous spelling and/or grammatical errors.
<b>Citations:</b> <b>Are the citations presented appropriately?</b>	The news article contains appropriate in-text citations and a list of references for all source material.	The news article is missing either appropriate in-text citations or a list of references.	The news article is missing appropriate in-text citations and a list of references OR citations are missing for one or more sources.
<b>Rationale for choosing topic:</b> <b>Did the writer indicate why they chose the topic?</b>	The rationale for choosing the topic is clearly explained.		No rationale for the topic's choice is provided.

#### General feedback (5 points):

- Your topic was super interesting to read about. I personally think you shouldn't underline sections in a biology news article. Also, I think you should include a compelling title that describes your paper. I would move the comma in between the quotation marks instead of outside it.
- I think your scientific communication report shows that you know a lot about this topic and are passionate about learning about them.
- Needs improvement on the flow of the news article and on the works cited page with using the correct citations.
- The article needs significant rewording.
- This paper looks like it was completed in a rush, and it contains numerous format and grammatical issues
- I feel like it sounds like the paragraphs are just a bunch of bullet points smashed into a paragraph.
- Also, it sounds like the writer is using terminology that sounds like it is coming straight from the article and not clearly defined for a layperson to understand fully.
- I don't think that the paragraphs flow/transition from paragraph to paragraph.
- Your news article is missing numerous punctuation that is necessary for the flow of the writing.

- I am unsure why there were sections of the paper that are underlines, italicized, and missing punctuation. I am honestly unsure what the underlines sections were meant to convey but I think they are unnecessary and make the news article look tacky.
- The thesis is unclear and does not fully introduce the topic for the article. I recommend cutting the sentence prior to the thesis and revising the start of your thesis statement to be more direct (perhaps simply starting with “Genome Mapping, which...”)  
Additionally, I recommend either editing the end of the thesis or clarifying what ways that genome mapping can be applied. Lastly, I would recommend either discussing genome mapping more in the body of the essay or revising the thesis to center around uses of Extremophiles in various fields rather than genome mapping.
- The term “Genome Mapping” should be defined in the introduction.
- The assertion of your first body paragraph introduces two separate ideas and could be simplified to just the part about biofuels, as the paragraph does not really discuss rate of reaction.
- The first body paragraph is a little bit repetitive; I recommend removing the word “attractive” in favor for other terms (One main draw of extremophiles..., more suitable alternative..., etc.)
- The sentences in this article often run-on and could be separated into two sentences or have sections cut out.
- The third sentence of the first body paragraph feels choppy and out of place in the paragraph, maybe you could move that sentence to another place? Otherwise reword and maybe combine with part of the next sentence, “Since the generation of biofuels often occurs... many microorganisms are unable to survive in such conditions.”
- “Thermophilic bacteria, on the other hand, are able to...”
- I recommend rewording the first sentence of the second body paragraph to focus more on what their uses are in the medical industry, as that is what the paragraph seems to be centered around.
- I think you should add one more sentence to the end of the second body paragraph to wrap up the paragraph and provide a transition
- If possible, I recommend adding another body paragraph about another field where extremophiles are being used or potentially will be used in the future. Otherwise, just add a conclusion to wrap up the article and summarize, potentially writing a bit about the future of extremophiles.
- I would add a better explanation or more in-depth explanation of why you chose this topic.

**Overall assessment (excellent, good, needs improvement):**

I would say that your news article needs improvement.