

Scientific Communication Writing Assignment Rubric – Peer Evaluation

your name: Anya Kramer

assignment reviewed: #15. Shir Carasso's assignment on a parasite.

	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement
Content: Does the news article convey the writer's understanding of a biological topic?	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The rest is excellent!</p>	<p>The news article does not illustrate the writer's 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.</p>
Audience: Is the writing appropriate for the target audience?	<p>The news article avoids jargon and clearly defines terms and ideas for a non-expert audience.</p>	<p>The news article defines or explains some terms, but some key terms or ideas would be challenging for a non-expert audience.</p>	<p>The news article lacks definitions and explanations, making the topic inaccessible to a non-expert audience.</p>
Organization: Is the news article clearly organized?	<p>The news article is well organized and easy to follow with good transitions between the paragraphs.</p>	<p>The news article is generally organized and easy to follow but conceptual connections aren't always clear.</p>	<p>The news article is disorganized, and the information presented doesn't flow well.</p>

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	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement
Format, spelling & grammar: Does the news article follow the recommended format and is it free of writing errors?	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. <i>The rest is excellent!</i>	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.
Citations: Are the citations presented appropriately?	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.
Rationale for choosing topic: Did the writer indicate why they chose the topic?	The rationale for choosing the topic is clearly explained.		No rationale for the topic's choice is provided.

General feedback (5 points):

Great job! This is a very interesting topic, so I enjoyed reading your paper. You clearly understand the content very well. I like how you explain all the technical concepts clearly. The definition of “host,” the definition of “polarized light,” and the explanation of the experimental procedure were all especially helpful. I had no trouble understanding the science, so I think your writing style is perfect for this assignment. The general public would find this engaging and easy to read.

Your citations (as far as I can tell) look fine, and your explanation for why you chose this topic looks good.

I only found two problems. First, you didn't explain how this research could be relevant in a broader scientific context. Why does anybody care about the behavior of a mantis or the abilities of a parasite? (obviously you care because it's super cool, but does it have any other applications?) I don't know enough about this topic to suggest anything specific.

Your paper also has some run on sentences and several missing or misplaced commas. They don't affect my understanding of the content, but they are distracting. I'd recommend doing a close read, installing a grammar checking program, or asking someone who is enthusiastic about comma placement to look over your paper.

Overall assessment (excellent, good, needs improvement):

Very good. With a couple minor changes I think it will be excellent!