

Scientific Communication Writing Assignment Rubric – Peer Evaluation

your name: Lia

assignment reviewed: #35, Baylor Freeman, Purpose of Serotonin in *C. elegans*

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
Content: Does the news article convey the writer’s understanding of a biological topic?	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.
Audience: Is the writing appropriate for the target audience?	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.
Organization: Is the news article clearly organized?	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
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.	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):

- Overall, I think you did a very good job. This is a well-written article regarding fascinating research about the previously unresearched importance of serotonin derivatives. You included a clear and detailed explanation of the research identified, as well as implications of this understanding, and your personal connection to the topic is evident.
- The biggest drawback to this article is the lack of citations, both in terms of a formatted list of references or in-text citations, the information on Moodle is a great source to help with this.
- I just have a few minor comments which are outline below:
 - Ensure that whenever you say *C. elegans* it is italicized (I just noticed a few times when it was not, but for the rest it was so this is likely a re-reading thing).
 - Consider putting the title of the article in quotes just to make it extra clear (there may also be formatting guidelines for that, I am not certain of those however).

- It is unclear to me what you mean when you say “the cell signaling and response can be attributed to Parallel Pathways” – are you explaining that the definition of the term parallel pathways is cell signaling and response, or that parallel pathways are the cause for a certain cell signaling and response event? This could be work clarifying, but it may also just be an issue with the way I am reading it.
- This is just an observation, but in your second paragraph you define the term biosynthesis and then do not use the term later on in the paper. Could this be better integrated or omitted?
- In your third paragraph, you talk about *C. elegans* and its biological characteristics and such, but do not explain that it is a worm until the very end of that paragraph. Personally, I feel like understanding that *C. elegans* is a worm is very important to contextualize its biological aspects, so I would mention it right at the start of the paragraph (or even at the start of the paper).
- While this is a minor issue, I am not certain how strictly we will be kept to the two-page limit, so consider trying to stay within that limit to be on the safe side.

Overall assessment (excellent, good, needs improvement): excellent overall, but include citations!