

## Scientific Communication Writing Assignment Rubric – Peer Evaluation

**your name:** Katharine Brown

**assignment reviewed:** #51 Migraines and Genetics

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><br><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><br><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><br><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><br><b>Does the news article follow the recommended format and is it free of writing errors?</b> | The news article follows <b>guidelines for paper length and format</b> 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 <b>news article contains numerous spelling and/or grammatical errors.</b> |
| <b>Citations:</b><br><b>Are the citations presented appropriately?</b>                                                                 | The news article <b>contains</b> appropriate in-text citations and a <b>list of references for all source material.</b>                        | The news article is <b>missing either appropriate in-text citations</b> 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><br><b>Did the writer indicate why they chose the topic?</b>                                       | The <b>rationale for choosing the topic is clearly explained.</b>                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                      | No rationale for the topic's choice is provided.                                                                                                                                                  |

**General feedback (5 points):**

You might need to pay attention to where you are using migraine vs migraines. I also feel that you are missing a lot of citations such as when you define the 2 subtypes of migraines and the specific genes where a mutation causes a variation in a subtype of migraines. You tend to favor small simple sentences which can make your work hard to follow at the beginning. I really enjoy how much detail you decided to include through the use of parentheses. Another thing to look out for is the language you use as you do define some words like the subtypes, but not others like cerebrovascular endpoints which may be confusing for non-experts. I feel that your connections are just taking a sentence from the previous paragraph and making it the topic sentence without it acting as a proper connector to the rest of the text, but your paper is structured in a clearly defined way. There are a few misspellings, but some of the sentences did not clearly communicate what you wanted to say. There are some in-text citations, but there are numerous others that contain statistics that are from your articles such as “more than 123 genetic regions that connect to the risk of migraines” and so they should be cited as well. For the rationale, the reasons are very clear and I like how you explained more about your want to learn, but try and get rid of some of the simple sentences by combining them and change marigans to migraines, which is what I believe you wanted to do.

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

I felt that your paper contained all of the needed elements and details, but it was hard to understand your work due to your words not being clear and the small sentences kind of confusing me and you need to get in all of your citations. (good)