

Scientific Communication Writing Assignment Rubric – Peer Evaluation

your name: Sarabjit Dhillon

assignment reviewed: Ksenia Mats' Scientific Communication Paper

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):

- Some scientific knowledge seems to be required while reading a few parts of this essay-such as “geochemical models”, “oxidized phosphorus, in the form of phosphates (maybe you could talk about the difference in these with respect to their electrons)”, “hydrothermally processed”
- “for comparison Earth's seawater is in the range of approximately 8.” I love the comparison that you made!
- Your assertions on why this work is important and relevant to the public are exciting and really amazing. I think that cultivating life in space is a hot topic, and can draw many readers in. It may be helpful to also add a little bit of this to your hook at the introduction!
- Make sure to check all spelling and what can help trim the paper down to two pages is checking for phrases or some words that can be condensed and still keep the original meaning!
- Your writing is very accomplished and it is apparent that you took a lot of knowledge from your primary article. It is really helpful in the way that you condensed all your information and made it easy to read. The only thing I would say is to try to explain the harder concepts if you can! 😊

Overall assessment (excellent, good, needs improvement):

Overall, I think that you did a wonderful job on your news article! I love the topic that you chose, and the layout of the information presented makes your writing flow. Your ability to turn a project that sounds very complicated into a brief summary about it that clearly explains the main idea is great! Your vocabulary is amazing-especially with respect to the scientific side, and this may lead to a few concepts being a little hard for a general audience. I would focus on clarifying some concepts up for a lay audience, and also on the technical formatting of the paper-otherwise, all the scientific content you need is there! Remember for headings that include your name at the top of the page should be on the top left corner with the title underneath. Thank you for sharing you interests on extraterrestrial life and cultivating life on different planets-it was very interesting.