

Scientific Communication Writing Assignment Rubric – Peer Evaluation

your name: Lia

assignment reviewed: #76, Madeline Nobert

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 very important research about rabies as well as treatment methods and their limitations. You included a clear and detailed explanation of the research identified, very well-integrated definitions that help the reader and do not interrupt the flow of the reading, and your personal connection to the topic is evident.
- The biggest drawback to this article is the lack of in-text citations, though you do have a properly cited bibliography, the information on Moodle is a great source to help with this.
- Also, just out of curiosity, is it known how the second type of rabies presentation (paralysis) results in spreading to new hosts? If it is known, it would be good information to include, if not, then it is not necessary by any means.
- I just have a few additional minor comments which are outline below:

- In your second paragraph when first introducing the protocols, it may be useful to clarify that this was not just an experiment but a potential treatment method (however this could also just be an issue with the way I am reading that part of the paragraph).
- For the sentence in the last paragraph starting with, “The Milwaukee and Recife Protocols are a step forward in ...”, you may want to consider adding the word “though” at the start of the sentence or adding “however” after the comma?
- At the end, after explaining why vaccines remain the best treatment at the moment, you could consider potentially adding suggestions on what sort of things could be done to improve research techniques or accessibility of alternative treatments (the protocols), but this is not necessary at all.

Overall assessment (excellent, good, needs improvement): excellent overall, just include in-text citations.