Scientific Communication Writing Assignment Rubric – Peer Evaluation

your name: Anya Kramer

assignment reviewed: #94. An unnamed student's assignment on dog breeding.

	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 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.
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):

You clearly know a lot about dogs and the dog breeding process, but the scientific side of this issue doesn't really come through. You've chosen a very short article that doesn't seem to contain any original research, so it makes sense that you would struggle to write an article about it. Perhaps you could find the source that the original writer is talking about, and discuss their methods. I'd also recommend adding in a description of some specific genetic disorders to demonstrate why this issue is so important.

Your paper is not too scientific or technical, but the somewhat jumbled wording does make it hard to understand. This is more an issue of grammar than technical vocabulary.

I couldn't really tell how your paper was organized, once again because I found the writing very confusing. Throughout your paper you use strange syntax, and the grammar is often incorrect to the point of being very confusing. This makes your paper hard to read. I'd recommend doing a close read on your own, or downloading a grammar checking program. Think about what you're trying to communicate in each paragraph and sentence, then try to find the most clear and concise way to say it.

Your paper lacks in-text citations for a lot of your information. This is a pretty easy fix, just check to make sure you're formatting them correctly.

Overall assessment (excellent, good, needs improvement):

Needs improvement.