

Homework Assignment #7, Peer-Reviewing

The purpose of this assignment is to practice writing peer reviews for a scientific article. Before beginning your referee reports, please review “[Introduction to refereeing](#)”^{*} and the [grading rubric](#) for the assignment.

For the assignment, you’ll be given copies of two of your colleagues’ general-audience articles. For each article, you will write a one-page evaluation of the article. Do **not** simply edit the document; write a narrative report. Remember to point out strengths as well as weaknesses and mistakes.

Your review should incorporate the following elements:

1. A summary of the main ideas presented in the article. (Shows the author that you’ve actually read the paper.)
2. An assessment of the extent to which a member of the general public would understand and be interested in the report. (Is the article written at an appropriate level—language, concepts—for the intended audience?)
3. A comment on the effectiveness of the article’s title. Could the title be improved?
4. An evaluation of the (at least) four hyperlinks. (Do they present useful supplementary material consistent with the level of expertise of expected readers? Do they work?)
5. An evaluation of the figures. (Do they clearly communicate and enhance the main ideas of the article? Will they be understandable to the intended audience? Is the source of each figure given?)
6. An evaluation of the correctness of the physics explanations. Point out errors and omissions.
7. An evaluation of how well the author adhered to the author instructions.
8. Specific suggestions for how the author might improve the article.

Be specific! Back up your opinion with examples. Point out where language is ambiguous or unclear.

Be collegial and constructive! Do not make personal comments; criticize the article, not the author.

Due: **Friday, October 16, 9:00 p.m.** Email your assignment to phys496@physics.illinois.edu. Assignments submitted after the deadline will have points deducted. This assignment is not eligible for rewrite points.

Total—100 points (50 points for each review)