

## Homework Assignment #6, Explaining Physics Concepts to Non-Scientists—Final

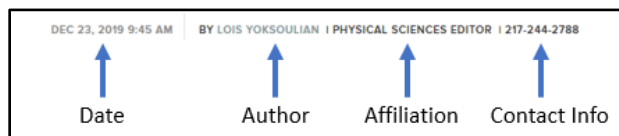
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**N.B. This assignment will be peer-reviewed (HW #7). Be sure to get this week's assignment (HW #6) submitted by the deadline (March 12) so that your reviewers have time to complete HW #7.**

In this assignment, you'll take your synopsis and outline from last week and, using the ideas from the “Paragraphs” lecture on February 26, expand your outline into a full paper. Remember your audience! Make sure the language and the figures that you use would be understandable to a non-specialist audience.

Your paper, which should be no more than three pages, including text, figures, and references, must contain the following six elements:

1. An engaging title.
2. A “byline”—your name, the date of the article, and the place where the article was written, e.g., Urbana, Ill. See <https://news.illinois.edu/view/6367/730694> for how to do the byline, as shown below. Use “Department of Physics, University of Illinois” for the byline, and your email address instead of a phone number.



3. A strong opening to capture the audience's interest.
4. A single main idea, conveyed in laypersons' language (no jargon, no arcane technical terms, no equations). You cannot cover every aspect of your chosen paper in this assignment. Pick out one element (how the work was done, what new phenomenon was discovered, what the results *mean*, how the discovery will affect future work in the field, why the researchers undertook the work) and make your story about that main idea.
5. At least two illustrative images, with appropriate credit given to the sources. The figures should be understandable and meaningful to a general audience (i.e., no complicated plots). You do not have to create these figures yourself, but you must credit the original authors and identify the source of the figures. You must also provide your own, original captions to explain the figures.
6. At least four embedded hyperlinks<sup>1</sup> to related, supplementary material that the audience can use to learn more about your topic. Links should be to content appropriate for the intended audience—no links to technical papers.

Due: **Friday, March 12, 9:00 p.m.** Upload your completed assignment to the my.physics portal. Assignments submitted after the deadline will have points deducted. Be mindful of your reviewers and **get your story submitted by the deadline**, so they have adequate time to complete their reviews. Assignments submitted after the deadline will have at least 20 points deducted and will be ineligible for rewrite points.

Total—150 points; 50 points on the accuracy of the physics, 50 points on how well you pitch your story for your intended audience of non-scientists, and 50 points on clear, concise, compelling writing.

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUZRHQU5HM> for instructions on how to insert a hyperlink in a Word document.