

Assignment Summary—Spring 2026 PHYS 595

Writing Workshop Assignments (130 pts). The purpose of the Writing Workshop (WW) assignments – which can be completed during Writing Workshop or after class as a homework assignment – is to help you improve your critical reading and rhetorical skills. These assignments will not be graded, but 10 points will be given for a completed WW assignment. Each Writing Workshop assignment should take no more than 30-45 minutes to complete. Suggested solutions to the Writing Workshop assignments will be posted on the course website roughly a week after a particular assignment is due.

Assignment 1: Write a Paper Topic Statement and Paper Outlines (70 pts).

Write a two or three sentence description of the topic (i.e., a topic statement) on which you propose to focus your writing assignments and final research talk/paper this semester and a draft level 1 or 2 outline of your research paper in both topic and sentence outline formats.

Assignment 2: Prepare & Present a Journal Club or Research Presentation

(200 pts). Prepare and present a 20- to 25-minute oral presentation in this class to the non-expert audience Phys 595 audience. You have the choice to give a talk on your own research (research presentation) or on a paper in an area related to your research but not from you or your research group (journal club presentation).

Assignment 3: Write a Scientific Referee Report (100 pts). Prepare a ~1-page referee report that critically evaluates—using the *Physical Review Letters* review criteria—a research paper from your field.

Assignment 4: Write an Abstract and Introduction for Your Research Topic (150 pts). Write an abstract and introduction to your research project, including references.

Assignment 5: Write the Methods and Results Sections for Your Research Paper (150 pts.). Write methods and results sections for your selected research topic, including figures and references.

Assignment 6: Write a Scientific Research Proposal (200 pts). Using material from your selected research topic, write a proposal to request funds for your research. You will also review 2-3 proposals that others in the class have written, and you will evaluate these proposals as part of an NSF-style panel review.