

## Homework Assignment #6, Peer-Reviewing

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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 suitability of the article for the Physics Illinois homepage (<http://physics.illinois.edu>). Do *not* simply edit the document; write a report.

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 evaluation of the correctness of the physics explanations. (Point out errors and omissions.)
3. An assessment of the extent to which an undergraduate physics major would be interested in the research being reported. (Is the article written at an appropriate level—language, concepts—for the intended audience?)
4. An evaluation of the article’s conformance with journalistic style conventions. (Does it include a headline, byline, location, funding acknowledgment?)
5. A comment on the effectiveness of the article’s title, subtitle (if any), and lede.
6. An evaluation of the hyperlinks. (Do they present useful supplementary material consistent with the level of expertise of expected readers?)
7. 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?)
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 story, not the author.

Due: **Friday, October 20, 9:00 p.m.** Email your assignment to [phys496@physics.illinois.edu](mailto:phys496@physics.illinois.edu). Assignments submitted after the deadline will have points deducted and will be ineligible for rewrite points.

Total—50 points (25 points for each review)