

ASTR 400A Scientific Writing Assignment

The point of this assignment is to write a critical review of a recent scientific result. In particular, you will choose a popular science article, from the New York Times, Scientific American, or a similar source. You should also review original materials—i.e., the sources cited in the popular article—when possible. You will then write your own article summarizing the original work, and criticizing aspects of the popular article that you find questionable.

In your essay, you should be sure to point out areas where the popular article has oversimplified, exaggerated, or mischaracterized the original work. You should also try to maintain a skeptical eye toward the original work and the scientific article, pointing out areas where you are not necessarily convinced.

Your essay should be less than one page long, and can be as short as one or two paragraphs.