

Paper One: Writing for the public

DUE TO YOUR TA BY 9AM ON FRI, SEPT 24

Topics: *Note: You can write about a topic before you have heard the lecture on the topic*

The Paper One topic must be drawn from the materials relating to Lectures 1-6 / Chapters 1-6

For this paper, you need to imagine that you are writing a science news or feature article for publication in the science section of the newspaper. If you want to see a model, find the New York Times or the Boston Globe on any Tuesday and look at the science section.

NOTE: The one BIG difference between your paper and a real article in the newspaper is that newspaper articles do not use bibliographic citation. You do, please.

Step 1: Convince your "editor"

If you were going to write an article for the newspaper, you would need to convince your editor that this was an article that he/she might want to publish. In this case, your TA is your editor. At least ten days in advance of the due date for the paper, you must give your TA a topic (just a sentence or two) and at least one source beyond what we give you on the server. You can probably email this but that is up to your TA.

Step 2: Fill in the background

You may not know much about your topic (reporters often do not). Reading broadly will help. You can fish around on the web. You might do better to go to the library and look in some general sources like textbooks, handbooks, etc. As ever, the librarians can help. Again, this is a good reason to sign up for a library workshop.

Step 3: Write an interesting and readable six-page paper.

The paper needs to have the following components (organization is up to you).

- a. **A good "lead":** You need to draw your readers into the article. Why should they read about this topic? There are lots of other articles in the paper.
- b. **Background:** There is no guarantee that your readers (well, your TA) will know anything about this topic. Be sure to educate the reader.
- c. **News:** What is the news here? What specific nugget of information makes this worth space in the paper? NOTE: That might come from some article other than the article that got you started. You might have gotten into the topic from whatever is on the website but your research might have uncovered The Really Interesting Stuff elsewhere.
- d. **Bibliography:** The listing of the works that you used.