**Physics Journal**

A journal is due every other week (or so). At the end of this handout are the due dates of every single journal for the entire year. This amounts to 5 journals per quarter. The journal is an opportunity that I offer you to express your opinions or ideas creatively about the science that is occurring in the world today.

All journals are graded out of 10 points. A 10 will only be given for a thoughtfully done piece of work. Journals are due at the start of class on the assigned days. THEY MUST BE TYPED AND AT LEAST 1 PAGE LONG.

Here is a list of ideas for possible journal topics. Examples of excellent journals are provided. DO NOT COPY THE STYLE OR CONTENT OF THESE. I show them to you to give you an idea of how to bring your own voice to this project. I will at times also suggest topics for you to comment on or explore depending on what is happening in the news.

In any given quarter, you must do a minimum of 2 article reviews/expository written pieces.

Idea 1: Article/Book Chapter Review

This is by far the most popular type of journal that I receive. For this type of journal, you will BRIEFLY summarize the main content of a science-related article from any major publication (NY Times, National Geographic, Science, Discover, etc) or a chapter from a book about science (if interested, I can suggest titles) and then comment on it. In order to effectively comment, you should pick an article that interests you. HAVE OPINIONS. EXPRESS THEM IN YOUR OWN PARTICULAR WAY.

This type of journal requires a FULL SOURCE CITATION. To be clear, this means *title of article, author of article, publication, and date of publication.* **Use the sample as the template for how the citation should look.**

Some other hints for this type of journal:

- If you don't understand the article, don't review it.

- **The opinion section must be longer than the summary.**

- Try to relate the article/topic to your life. Share a personal anecdote.

- Don't have bland opinions such as "This will be a good thing for science because it makes the world a better place." This is banal and trite.

# Idea 2: Cartoons

Draw a cartoon that illustrates a physics concept or principle. it doesn't have to be amazingly drawn but the IDEA behind the cartoon should be clever. If you've ever read xkcd.com, you'll know what I mean. All cartoons should come with some sort of TYPED WRITTEN STATEMENT such that the "lesson" of the cartoon is **CLEAR**.

Idea 3: Web Site Review

Find a physics web site and review its content through the lens of whether or not it would be a good extra help resource for an intro physics student.

Idea 4: "Bad Science"

Find examples of "Bad Science" found in movies or the media and explain the misconception involved and what should be done to correct it. You should do some research to have good explanations for WHY it is BAD and what SHOULD happen. If you need resources beyond what we have explicitly talked about in class to do this assignment, be sure to CITE where you got your information from.

Idea 5: Poetry

Write an original poem or song about physics or rework an existing poem or song to illustrate a physics principle. **The work should have a message and should teach something.** A note on form...I don't care what form of poem you use (rhyming heroic couplets, limericks, Haiku, blank verse, sestina, etc.), I only ask you are consistent and deliberate about it. Have FUN with this.

Idea 6: Physics in the Real World

Describe an occurrence that you experienced involving physics. Explain the physics concepts behind the experience. If you play sports or are fanatic about sports, you can describe the physics of those sports. As with the bad science type, DO RESEARCH. Don't 'wing it' and use physics vocabulary incorrectly. If you use a source to help you out (please do!), cite that source

Idea 7: Project

Instead of doing 5 journals in a quarter, you can do one project. Past projects have included instrument making and a research paper about relativity. This cannot be done 1st quarter.

Idea 8: Other

If you can think of anything else, run it by me.

Due Dates - If for some reason (assembly, snow, etc) your class does not meet on this day, the journal is due the next school day. I reserve the right to changes these dates with sufficient notice.

The first 'journal' will require you to fill out a survey with contact info. I'll explain that separately. Finishing it by Monday 9/7 by 8 AM is an automatic 10 out of 10.

1st quarter - Fri 9/18, Fri 10/2, Fri 10/16, Fri 10/30

2nd quarter - Fri 11/13, Wed 11/25, Fri 12/11, Tues 1/5, Fri 1/15

3rd quarter - Fri 1/29, Fri 2/12, Fri 3/4, Fri 3/18, Thurs 4/1

4th quarter - Fri 4/15, Tues 5/3, Fri 5/13, Thurs 5/26, Fri 6/10

The final journal of the year is a self and course evaluation but we'll talk about that when we get there!