

EPFL PHYS-466

Spring semester

Professor Suliana Manley

Overview

You will write a 5-page composition on an article of your choice. This should be an original research article, not a review article. The title page and a list of references, included at the end, do not count toward the page limit.

The essay should be written in an expository or argumentative style. The intended audience is your peers who have taken this course. Use of writing aids (such as ChatGPT) is permitted, with the student taking responsibility for all the content within the essay: meaning that eloquent Chat-GPT falsehoods will be attributed to YOU and will therefore obviously reduce your grade.

1) Title page

- a) Title and authors of the scientific paper, publication date.
- b) Your name, the course name and date.
- c) Specify the genre (choose either expository (similar to a textbook), or argumentative (similar to primary literature))

2) Introduction / Background

- a) Put the paper into context using topics covered in the course. This should be broader than the introduction of the paper itself.
- b) What important findings and studies came before this one?
- c) What is the open question that the study addresses?
- d) Include numbered references that cite relevant texts.

3) Methods

- a) Which methods did the authors use to address the open question? Describe and comment on any new methods developed during the study.

4) Results

- a) Summarize the findings. Refer when appropriate to Figures in the paper.

5) Discussion

- a) Which conclusions are supported by the results? Which, if any, remain speculative?
- b) What are some potential implications of their findings?
- c) Discuss this work considering our course definition of scientific breakthrough.
- d) Put this work in the context of others in the course.

6) References

7) Attach a .pdf of the paper.

Style notes: Number your pages. Use minimum 11 pt Arial font, 1.5 spacing between lines. Full justified. 1 column per page.

Grading criteria

The essay should be:

- 1) Deep - Relay important details in your description of what the authors have done and why. You should put the findings in context, in your own words.
- 2) Clear - Provide the most critical information in a sequence that presents a story. Use words that clearly convey what you want to say. Each paragraph should detail a single idea.
- 3) Concise – Avoid filling space with extraneous information.