

Physics 122 General Research Paper Guidelines:

Begin your reading NOW -- don't wait until the last minute. PLEASE COME TALK TO ME EARLY AND OFTEN!!

- 1) The paper is **due in class** on Monday April 27th (before Midterm #3).
- 2) Recall that you may also give a short (8-10 minute) presentation on your research topic to the rest of the class, for extra credit on 5/4 or 5/6.
- 3) Don't write at a high level; your audience for the paper is your peer group. So don't use jargon or symbols that your classmates wouldn't understand unless you explain what it means.
- 4) The paper must be 8-10 pages, typed, and must have an additional bibliography. At least two sources in the bibliography (apart from your original article) must be papers from a peer-reviewed Journal, and these sources must be clearly utilized in the report. All web-based sources must also be listed, with author and title information along with the URL, but all references must be scientifically reputable. Wikipedia is not a valid reference (but may get you pointed in useful directions).
- 5) Plagiarism from listed or unlisted sources will result in a ZERO for the assignment, and probable additional action at the university level. ***This will be strictly enforced even for a single plagiarized sentence or long phrase, or just changing random words from someone else's writing.***
- 6) Don't overuse quotations; one or two short ones at the most. DO NOT simply quote someone else's description of anything technical; explain it yourself, in your own words, or don't explain it at all.
- 7) You are strongly encouraged to use equations where necessary, with the same notation that we use in class (even if it differs from your research sources). Do not change notation in mid-paper. Feel free to attach figures as appropriate, but all figures must be your own work and have captions. Figures will not be counted toward or against the page requirement.
- 8) Check with me before using any figures from other sources. Ideally you should make your own version of the figure, but this is not always possible.

9) Please come talk to me about the paper if you're having trouble, or just not sure that you're on the right track.

Specific Advice/Direction for Research Projects will be posted soon.