

Science Blog

You are responsible for creating and maintaining a blog for the duration of this course. On this blog you will post about topics pertaining to science. You will post a summary of what you are sharing and then reflect on that topic. You are encouraged to share any concerns you might have, further questions that you would want to know about the topic, or any excitement or fear you may have. **You should think about and include what kind of an impact the news could have on your life, your community, your country, and the world.**

You have a couple of options for your post topics. You may find articles regarding to current events in science, technology, or the engineering world. If there is something you encounter in everyday life that you'd like to learn more about how it works, you can find an article relating to that also. I am open to entertaining other ideas for blog posts, as long as they are approved by me before they are posted (Weebly has an option to send a draft link to someone – use this feature if you want to post something not noted above).

These posts do not have to be long. A paragraph or two will be sufficient. You do not need to write an essay length post on every topic, but if you feel your post needs to be longer, feel free to write as much as you'd like.

Occasionally, these blogs will be a place where post homework assignments. Remember, blogs are viewable to the entire world so take pride in what you post.

Setup

We will be using Weebly as the platform for you science blog. Each group of three will be assigned a specific blogging page. Your username will be scistudent# (I will assign your group a number in place of the number sign). Your password is thibeault.

Each group is responsible for posting twice per week. All posts are due by Saturday night of each week. You should set up a schedule as a group. You will have approximately 30 posts by the end of the semester.

Come up with a creative name and find a theme that you would like to use on your blog. It's YOUR blog, so customize it to your liking.

Posting Requirements*

Each group will need to post at least two posts per week about science news that you find. If you would like to post more than twice per week, please do.

Occasionally we may use the blogs as a space to post items like homework assignments or projects. You will be told when this is what you are expected to do.

- Tag each post with your first name and the unit (example: Tags for an article on the synchrotron would be *Bob* and *Atoms & Elements*)
- Each post contains link(s) to the article(s) you reference
- Each post contains at least two quotes from sources or other experts on your topic
- Each post is carefully proofread, edited, and revised
- Each post contains an image that is obtained with creative commons licensing and is appropriately cited. The image should enhance your message (something representational or symbolic, not just a direct image).
 - Images can be obtained at:
 - Creativecommons.org
 - Compfight.com (make sure creative commons images are selected)
 - <http://www.zoo-m.com/flickr-storm/>
 - Flickr.com
 - Your own photos

**Derived from MICDS English Department Blogging Requirements*

Commenting Requirements**

Each week you, as an individual, will need to read and add your comments to at least one of your classmates' posts. You are free to comment on more, but one is the requirement. You must also comment on one post from our international blogging partners each week.

***Subject to change if our partnership falls through.*

Examples of Acceptable Comments	Examples of Unacceptable Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● You made some good points here, such as ___. I agree with them because ___.● I disagree with the point you made about ___. The reason I disagree is ___.● This post made me realize that ___. Why it made me realize this is ___.● A point about this you may want to think about is ___. The reason you may want to think about it is because___.● I found this article/site (add link) that relates to your point that _____. In summary, the article/site explains that _____.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● "That's cool"● "Neat"● "YOLO"● "You're awesome, keep it up!"● "I don't have a comment"● "I'm commenting because Miss Thibeault made me."

Post Sources Ideas

There are many great places to find topics to post about. Here are some ideas:

- <http://www.popsoci.com/>
- <http://www.ted.com/>
- <http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/> (Canadian Science & Technology)
- <http://www.sciencemag.org/>
- <http://www.sciencenews.org/>
- <http://www.sciencedaily.com/>
- <http://www.sciencenewsforkids.org/>
- <http://www.nytimes.com/pages/science/index.html>
- <https://news.google.com/news/section?pz=1&cf=all&ned=us&topic=snc&ict=ln>
- Twitter!
- Many, many more!

Sources

It is important for us to remain academically honest students as we create these posts. This means you should be including a link to where you found the original content, or where and when you saw it if it wasn't found online. If you are referring to a video, it is easy to put that video right into your post. If you would like to quote someone or an article, make sure you reference where that quote came from.

It is not acceptable to copy and paste from an article without citing it. These posts should be in your own voice.

Rubric for Science Blog Posts

	5	4	3	2	1
Topic	Topic is relevant to Science 9		Topic relates loosely to Science 9		Topic does not relate to Science 9
Content	Student-generated content is thoughtful and concise. Post contains one "inspiration" source and at least one other source.	Student-generated content shows signs of original thought. Post contains one "inspiration" source and one other source.	Student-generated content is paraphrasing articles. Post contains one "inspiration" source.	Student-generated content is sparse. Post contains one "inspiration" source and one other source.	No student-generated content. OR No sources present.
Sources	All information is cited. All photos are cited.	Missing one citation for a source or photo.	Missing two citations for a source or photo.	Missing all but one citation for a source or photo.	No citations present.
Professionalism	Evidence of revision, editing, and acceptable language.	Very few grammar/spelling errors.	Multiple spelling/grammar errors.	Inappropriate language used periodically.	Clear lack of effort to use appropriate language.
Image	The image relates directly to topic.		The image loosely relates to topic.		The image does not relate to topic OR is not included.
Commenting	Student comments on one peer post and one international blogging partner's post each week.		Student comments on either one peer post and one international blogging partner's post each week.		Student does not comment on any posts during the week.