# Final Assignment

Write a scientific article. The article must include some kind of “measurement” or other data. The data themselves can be made up, but they should be data that a 北大 student could in principle obtain by themselves.

The article’s main results do not need to be novel; you can also write about a null result. However, the article needs to be realistic. For example, you cannot pretend that people don’t know about Newton’s laws; you cannot write a science fiction article in which you flew to Mars; and you cannot write a “chicken” article which pretends nobody knows heat and flavoring make chicken meat taste better. Bonus points if your article is based on a real experiment which you performed for this class[[1]](#footnote-1). **The article must be written so a reader who is generally smart, but who only has a basic undergraduate science background, can understand everything.** If you are already pursuing undergraduate research, you are welcome to write an article based on your research; in this case, check with the Professor first. **If you are writing an article based on a fictional experiment or made-up data, you must state so in the acknowledgments section.**

**The article is due via email before noon (12:00) on June 15.** Email the TA and cc the professor. Unexcused late submissions will not be accepted.

Like any scientific article, your assignment will be evaluated based on the quality of its writing and presentation, as well as its overall logic. For example: Are the conclusions supported by the underlying data? Was care taken in the methods? Does the article also rule out alternative conclusions? Does the article discuss how the current work relates to previous work? Etc.

The article must be Nature-length = at least **2250 words** (including title + abstract + figure captions + main text, excluding References). The abstract can at most be **250 words** long.

The main body should ideally follow the Introduction – Method – Results – Discussion and/or Conclusion format discussed in class. Upon request, you can also use Nature/PNAS-type style in which the methods are outside the main text (in this case, send an abstract-length proposal of your article to the professor first). Any article must also include Title, Abstract, and References.

The article must include at least one figure plus caption.

Your article needs to have citations and a bibliography. **The references do not have to be numerous, but they must be real (i.e., you cannot cite fake papers); 5 references minimum.** In addition to research articles, you might also consider citing textbooks or blog posts.

1. As proof that you performed a real experiment, submit a video that shows yourself performing the experiment. No bonus points for experiments that are part of your normal undergraduate research. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)