

Final Paper

Objective:

Tell the story of a space mission, from conception to inception and completion.

Report Overview

1) Introduction

- a. This is a brief overview of your entire project. Summarize the entire paper in a paragraph. What is the broad story of your mission?

2) Body

- a. History
- b. Goals
- c. Results
- d. Cultural Impact

3) Conclusion

- a. Summarize the key results and lessons of the mission.

4) References

Report Body Outline

5) History

- a. Why did this mission get established? Who was behind it? Discuss the motivations for why the mission was dreamed up, and what questions they were trying to answer.
- b. Which agencies and countries were involved in this mission? It's important to know that NASA does not do everything by itself - many countries contribute. Who were involved?
- c. What years were the missions planned? The folks who work on these missions dedicate, in many cases, their entire lives to one single mission. Consider the dedication required to work on a single project for your entire adult life.
- d. When did the mission launch? Make sure to include the launch date.
- e. When did the mission end, if it has ended? Is the mission ongoing? Was it extended? Why? Did something go wrong?

f. Where was the mission launched from? Sometimes NASA will launch rockets from Kazakhstan, or Guiana, not just Cape Canaveral.

g. Were there any controversies associated with this mission? Cassini used the largest amount of plutonium 238 ever, and people were afraid of an accident on launch. Matt Taylor exhibited sexist behavior during a Rosetta mission press conference. Hubble was almost left for dead. The Beagle 2 lander failed to phone home. What was controversial about your mission? What were the effects?

6) *Goals*

a. Technological goals

Curiosity engineers needed to develop the Sky Crane maneuver to get a rover onto the surface of Mars, Apollo engineers needed to get men to the moon and back safely using the most powerful machine ever made. What technology needed to be developed for the success of your mission?

b. Scientific goals

Mars Express wanted to take hi-res photos of the entire surface of Mars. Rosetta wanted to compare the water frozen in a comet to the water found on earth. What scientific questions did your mission set out to answer?

c. Cultural/political goals (if any)

The Apollo mission set out to demonstrate that the United States and capitalism had superiority over Soviet or other communist systems of government.

7) *Results*

a. What technological goals were achieved?

You can't always get what you want. What compromises did your mission have to make? What goals were achieved? Which ones were abandoned and why?

b. What scientific goals were achieved?

c. What cultural or political goals were achieved?

8) *Cultural Impact*

a. Did this mission have a lasting impact on pop culture? If so, how?