Unit 1: Writing in the Natural Sciences

Field of Study: Natural Science Field of Choice

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| Genre | Purpose | Audience | Role | Rhetorical Situation |
| Popular science magazine article (e.g. *Scientific American*) | To inform readers of the latest research findings in an engaging manner. | Non-expert public audience with an interest in science and technology. | Science writer for a publication like *Scientific American* | As a freelance science writer, you wish to write about a current research development that interests you. |

Unit Schedule

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| --- | --- |
| Assignment | Due Date |
| Feeder 1.1 Draft |  |
| Feeder 1.1 |  |
| Feeder 1.2 Draft |  |
| Feeder 1.2 |  |
| Draft 1 Unit 1 Project |  |
| Draft 2 Unit 1 Project |  |
| Final Draft Unit 1 Project |  |

Feeder 1.1: Annotated Bibliography

In order to write an effective and engaging article, you will need to demonstrate that you have a grasp of current and important works dealing with your topic. Find and cite **three sources** related to the specific topic you have chosen. Your annotated bibliography should begin with a paragraph that identifies your specific topic, makes connections between the sources you have chosen, and explains why you have chosen these particular sources.

For each source, write a brief summary that addresses the following:

* What is the main finding or the main argument in the source?
* What methods were used in this study?
* Why will this source be useful for your popular science article?

An effective annotated bibliography will clearly and concisely summarize each article, and contain accurate CSE citations for each source (Name-Year format).

Feeder 1.2: Topic Proposal Letter (Email)

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/page/submission-instructions/>

*Scientific American* welcomes ideas for articles on recent scientific discoveries, technical innovations and overviews of ongoing research. Our preferred authors have extensive first-hand knowledge of the field that they describe, and have usually made significant contributions to it.  We very strongly encourage potential contributors to read recent issues of the magazine for a sense of form, style and level of complexity and specialization typical of our articles.

Before writing or sending us a manuscript, please send us a proposal letter **(one to two pages is usually sufficient)** that briefly summarizes:

* The subject of the article
* The practical and theoretical significance of this subject
* Any preliminary research you have already conducted (in the form of an annotated bibliography).
* Any other information that you think would make the article interesting to our audience.

We also ask that authors identify two model articles from *Scientific American* that they would like to emulate and explain why these models would be a good fit for your particular topic.

**Send all proposals electronically to:** [submit through Google Drive]

Include your last name and the word PROPOSAL in the subject line.

Unit 1 Final Project: Popular Science Magazine Article

After your proposal has been accepted, you will synthesize your research, compose your article, and prepare the article for the magazine using Adobe InDesign. We will work together in class to generate a list of elements that your final article should include.

**Keep in mind these tips**:

* Generally speaking, *Scientific American* presents ideas that have already been published in the peer-reviewed technical literature. We do not publish new theories or results of original research.
* Our articles are geared to general readers interested in science and technology. We avoid jargon and equations.
* We are looking for authors who can convey ideas with clarity and concision. Lengths of feature articles vary; the average length of a published article is approximately **1,500 words**.