

ASSIGNMENT # 8

Astro 597 – Spring 2018 Writing Workshop

1: TRACKING PROGRESS

Please continue to note how many words you wrote on each of 4 different days each week and discuss your progress/concerns. For this week's #3, I anticipate your needing to do more reading than usual, possibly at the expense of writing; feel free to comment on your progress in reading as well. Remember that just reading the introduction, skimming the figures, and digesting the high points of the discussion counts as "reading" as well.

2: PLEASE READ THE ATTACHED EXCERPTS FROM "WRITING SCIENCE" BY JOSHUA SCHIMEL, AND STEPHEN HEARD'S "SCIENTISTS GUIDE TO WRITING".

3: CONSTRUCT AN OPENING PARAGRAPH FOR A 1-PAGE PROPOSAL

When writing a proposal, you have tight space constraints and must grab the reviewer's interest quickly. Write an opening paragraph for a hypothetical 1-page proposal for the work that you're currently carrying out (i.e., assume you traveled back in time to get funding for this project). Compared to your work in the previous assignment, you will need to make sure the opening is compelling for a non-expert PhD astronomer and that you get through to the "conflict/challenge" quickly. Instead of writing a paragraph to propose the work you're actually doing, you can also craft a story and opening paragraph for a real proposal that you're planning on submitting later this year.

4: CONSTRUCT AN OPENING PAGE FOR A 10-PAGE PROPOSAL

For a longer proposal, your goal is to effectively "sell" the project by the end of the first page, so that the remaining 9 pages are just filling in details of a project that the reader is already inclined to believe is valuable. Expand your basic structure from #3 to an entire page. You may choose to include a figure that tells the story as well, as long as everything fits on a single page. Note, however, that you should still make the introductory paragraph as strong as possible, such that it efficiently starts to funnel down to your main idea.