

## Grading Rubric for Review Paper, Chemistry Writing, Chem 391, D. Belnap

Submission			Characteristics of an "A" Paper (in order of importance)
1	2	3	
			The paper enlightens the reader, holds the reader's attention, and is clear and easy to read.
			All ideas and data from others are properly cited.
			Paper has a clear main message—a chemical, biochemical, or molecular-biology issue.
			The paper is organized so that ideas logically flow from one concept to another.
			Each paragraph has a clear, focused topic sentence. Each remaining sentence in the paragraph refers to or enhances the message of the topic sentence.
			Figures and tables significantly enhance understanding. Captions and footnotes, respectively, explain everything without reference to the main text. Drawings and plots are clear.
			Abstract gives a clear summary of the paper. Wording is informative. The main message of the paper is clearly stated.
			Paper does not waste words. Every word, phrase, sentence, and paragraph contributes to the main message of the paper.
			Introduction focuses on the main message and "gets to the point" without extraneous detail. The introduction ends with a succinct statement of the main ("take-home") message.
			Conclusion has a brief summary followed by an insightful discussion of what issues or questions remain. Additional experiments are proposed.
			Wording is accurate.
			Abbreviations and unusual terms are defined.
			Author used primarily active voice. Author's use of passive voice is justified.
			Sentences are informative, not indicative.
			Most sentences have old information at the beginning and new information at the end.
			Author followed instructions for format, length, references, neatness, tables, figures, and so forth.
			The paper has only minimal discussion of applications, typically one paragraph in the introduction or conclusion and possibly one sentence in the other.
			The paper contains few, if any, punctuation, spelling, capitalization, or grammar errors.

Submission			Characteristics of a "B" Paper
1	2	3	
			The paper is not easy to read, or some sentences must be read multiple times for understanding.
			One or more ideas are placed out-of-order.
			Ideas in the paper follow a reasonable order, but transitions between concepts are disjointed.
			Paper's overall message is a chemical, biochemical, or molecular biological issue.
			Paragraphs lack clear, informative topic sentences.
			Strong topic sentences are not followed by sentences that relate to the topic sentence.
			Paragraphs have multiple topics.
			Figures or tables somewhat enhance the paper.
			Portions of figures or tables are unexplained or a figure or table needs minor enhancement.
			Abstract is unclear, is vague, is indicative, contains some wasted words, or is incomplete.
			One or more items need to be explained or need to be written clearly
			Paper has one sentence or a few sentences with wasted words or "wordiness."
			Introduction does not adequately focus on the main message or contains extraneous detail.
			Conclusion has a brief summary but little, if any, discussion of what issues or questions remain.
			Wording contains one or two inaccurate statements.
			Author used passive voice more often than is justified.
			Several sentences are indicative, not informative.
			Unjustifiably, sentences have new information at the beginning and old information at the end.
			Author didn't follow one or two instructions.
			Ideas and data are cited but are not referenced in correct format.
			Author discusses applications more than recommended.
			Punctuation, spelling, capitalization, or grammar errors are a minor nuisance.

Submission			
1	2	3	<b>Characteristics of a "C" Paper</b>
			The paper is difficult to read. Its message is unclear.
			Most excerpted data and ideas are cited, but some ideas or data are not.
			Ideas do not logically connect.
			Message of paper is diluted because the paper contains several paragraphs devoted to applications.
			Paragraphs have unclear focus. Many sentences must be read multiple times to be understandable.
			Figures and tables are present but do not enhance the paper much, i.e. they have minor relevance.
			Figures and tables are significantly incomplete or unclear.
			A figure or table is irrelevant, or a figure or table is needed.
			Captions contain little or irrelevant explanation.
			Abstract is only remotely relevant to a chemical message.
			Paper contains many "wordy" sentences.
			Introduction is unfocused.
			Conclusion is irrelevant, i.e. contains primarily wasted words.
			Abbreviations or unfamiliar terms are undefined.
			Wording contains three or more inaccurate statements.
			Author used primarily passive voice.
			Some (3 or more) deviations from instructions.
			Several punctuation, spelling, capitalization, or grammar errors annoy or distract the reader.

Submission			
1	2	3	<b>Characteristics of a "D" Paper</b>
			Paper is extremely difficult to read.
			Although some excerpted data and ideas are cited, most ideas or data are not.
			Though the paper is about chemistry, biochemistry or molecular biology, its message is indiscernible.
			Paper has no direction. Paragraphs lack cohesion.
			Figures and tables are not present, are sloppy, or two or more are irrelevant.
			Abstract is not present or is irrelevant.
			Most words are wasted words.
			Introduction is non-existent or irrelevant.
			Conclusion is non-existent or irrelevant.
			Significant inaccurate wording.
			Paper deviates significantly from instructions.
			Paper discusses applications rather than chemistry, biochemistry, or molecular biology.
			Paper is "sloppy." It may have the appearance of being written the night before or day of the deadline.
			Paper contains considerable punctuation, spelling, capitalization, or grammar errors.

Submission			
1	2	3	<b>Characteristics of an "E" Paper (one or more of the following)</b>
			Paper is on a non-chemistry topic.
			Paper contains no references.
			Paper is incomprehensible.
			Wording is deliberately inaccurate or deceptive.
			Paper contains deliberately plagiarized words. (This will result in further discipline.)