

Term Paper Evaluation Rubric

Students who undertake to do a term paper choose their topic of Physics based on personal interest. Topics may be interdisciplinary and/or based on current events. The report itself should be designed to educate the general public clearly and comprehensively. It is expected that the student has gained a great deal of insight and knowledge from the research required to complete the paper and that this knowledge/insight is well demonstrated via their written product. Further, and separate from the report, the student should be able to engage in an intellectual discussion about the topic if queried. Finally, final report should serve to address the following issues, as applicable, either separately or together:

A) Creativity

- a) How unique is the topic?
- b) Is it significant and sophisticated enough for the age of the student?
- c) How well does the paper illustrate ideas either generated or studied by the student?

B) Understanding

- a) What is the purpose for doing the paper?
- b) What did the student learn from the paper?
- c) Has the student used a wide range of appropriate research materials for the paper? Are they properly cited?
- d) Can the student answer questions and intellectually discuss the paper topic?

C) Clarity

- a) Is the paper organized and easily read?
- b) Can the objective be determined right away?
- c) Is the report clearly written?

D) Dramatic Value

- a) How well did the student present the paper?
- b) Is the paper visually appealing?
- c) Is the appropriate emphasis given to important ideas?

E) Technical Skill

- a) Was the work done by the student?
- b) Are grammar and spelling accurate?
- c) Is the paper/report illustrative and well constructed?
- d) Is the style of the paper appropriate and sophisticated enough for the age of the student?