

Guidelines for Weekly Report

A typed one page (single spaced) or two page (double spaced) report (12 point font) will be required for each colloquium, starting with the 2nd colloquium of the semester and ending with the colloquium on March 14th. These eight reports can draw on material from the colloquium itself, material presented during class time, and reading materials. These reports should be handed in during class in the week following the colloquium and will account for 40% of the course grade.

Some questions to consider when writing the report:

1. What is the central message that the speaker is conveying?
2. Did the speaker make a significant original contribution to the subject? Explain.
3. What are the physical principles that underlie the subject presented? Try to relate what you heard to physics you are learning at the undergraduate level.
4. Was an unexpected discovery or hypothesis made? Explain.
5. Is there a practical application or a cross-disciplinary aspect to the work described? Explain how the work described could have an impact beyond its own discipline.
6. Do you think that the science presented is genuine and realistic or is there an aspect of marketing, advocacy, or hype that you can detect? Explain your opinion.
7. What are the big questions and unresolved issues that remain in the field?

The report should reflect your own understanding of what you heard. It should not simply be a recycling of abstract or undigested jargon that you heard or read. Describe what you gained from your exposure to the subject and make sure to express it in your own words. What did you find most interesting and what did you find the most difficult to understand? Succinctness is very important since you need to convey as much substance as possible with relatively few words.