

ASTR 121 – Spring 2016

Writing Activity

Astrobites: A Condensed Astrophysical Journal

Astrobites is a daily published blog of astrophysics articles. Written by astronomy graduate students, each Astrobites article condenses a full journal article into a shorter summary, more accessible to undergraduate students.

We will be using Astrobites extensively in this course; each lab will have an associated Astrobites article on a similar topic. Today, we will use an Astrobites article to examine scientific writing.

Writing Activity: A Mini-Astrobite

Search for the Astrobites article [*insert chosen article here*]. Read through the article, observing the organization described in the ‘Scientific Writing’ handout. Then, write an abstract that could potentially go along with this article. Your abstract shouldn’t be more than about a paragraph. Once done, trade with a partner and compare what things you included in your abstracts, what things the abstracts were lacking, and what they did well.