Revisions of Your Review Paper: High-Level Goals

You will each receive an email from me later today about higher-level issues to work on when revising your papers.

Requirements of the Review Paper

• Typical length: 5-10 pages double-spaced text with a few additional pages for figures and references.
• Can be longer, but please don’t ramble
• Focus on putting together a coherent story
  – Why is this an interesting topic?
  – Is there a logical flow to the paper?
• Use graphical information (figures)
• Include a reasonable number of scholarly references
  – Don’t rely excessively on flaky internet sources
  – You can choose the citation format, e.g., endnotes or embedded citations (e.g., “This idea was favored by Tripp (2003), but it is clearly delusional …”)

These aspects of the papers will be heavily weighted in the final grade.

Another important note: if you spend a lot of time on an assignment, it will carry more weight in the final grade.
Requirements for citations in the revised draft

• Citations should be appropriately folded into the text **in a precise and carefully selected place** (do not provide a bunch of information and then just tag the citation onto the end of the paragraph).

• **Scholarly sources!**
  • Provide full details about the source in the reference list (authors, year of publication, journal, volume number, page)

Requirements for figures in the revised draft

Figures should be suitably discussed in the main text, e.g., for this analysis, **Io’s orbital geometry for each observation is shown in Figure 3.** Although most of the events are clustered near Io’s western elongation (orbital phase ~ 270°), a variety of orbital geometries are represented. Each event measures a different cut through Io’s corona, and each

And, figures should have a complete caption, as shown in the following example:
Requirements for figures in the revised draft

1. Figure is woven into the text.
2. Suitable caption style (use your own words and cite the source of the figure)
3. Content of figure is explained in the caption.

Weave an interesting and logically coherent story

• The introduction of the paper should sketch out the big-picture motivation. Why should we care about this topic? Technical details are important, but if you jump right into that without a proper introduction, you’ll bore your reader to tears. Remember that good titles and intriguing opening sentences are important. You only have a brief opportunity to get the gig.

• Spend some time thinking about the logical organization of the paper. How does the information all fit together? What kind of transitions are required to move from one part to the next?
Write at a level appropriate for your target readership

- Assume that your reader is an undergraduate student, majoring in science, who knows little or nothing about astronomy.
- This person is smart, so you can assume that he/she has a good vocabulary of standard English, but you cannot assume that the reader understands any advanced jargon.
- This is not a news article, so please avoid statements like “Astronomers have found that…” Telling the story as directly as possible is important in science writing -- **omit needless words.**

**The final (revised) draft is due on May 4.**