

TA TRAINING / FALL 2014



Helping you communicate effectively.

be.mit.edu/communicationlab

The BE Communication Lab is a resource to help you in your role as a TA.

- * Recitations workshops
- * Individual & group coaching for students
- * Structural support for syllabus design
- * Rubric design

Courses that already partner with the Communication Lab:

FALL

- * 20.S900
- * 20.109
- * 20.201
- * 20.309
- * 20.416

SPRING

- * 20.109
- * 20.111
- * 20.309
- * 20.310

This is a rubric from 20.111 that we created:

Grading Rubric for 20.111*								
	Beginning	Emerging	Developing	Capable	Experienced	Exceptional	INDIVIDUAL'S POINTS	TOTAL POINTS VALUED
MOTIVATING QUESTION	No motivating question, purpose or central theme exists; reader must infer this based on sketchy or missing details	Motivating question is still missing though possible theme/topic is emerging	Motivating question is present, may be broad or simplistic	Motivating question is identified as main idea; development remains basic or general	Motivating question is well-marked by detail but could benefit from additional information	Motivating question is original, real-life motivated, well-articulated, appropriate in scope and ties into a larger thermodynamic principle		
Motivating question points	0	5	10	15	20	25		25
SCIENTIFIC AUTHENTICITY	Authors illustrate conceptual gaps or misunderstandings	Authors understand most of the main concepts but a few gaps or misunderstandings are present	Authors have a grasp of the conceptual understandings, but do not show the ability to apply concepts effectively	Authors have a solid understanding of the concepts, but do not show flexibility with their understanding	Authors are able to illustrate understanding of concepts and applied them appropriately to their research	Principles of thermodynamics are clearly understood and applied in context; authors understood concepts and are able to make deep connections		
Scientific authenticity points	0	5	10	15	20	25		25
ORGANIZATION	Organization can't be identified; writing lacks direction; content is strung together in loose random fashion	Organization is mostly ineffective; only moments here and there direct reader	Organization is still problematic, though structure begins to emerge; ability to follow text is slowed	Organization moves reader though text without too much confusion	Organization is smooth; only a few small areas of confusion	Organization enhances and showcases central motivating question; order of information is compelling, moving reader through text		
Organization points	0	4	8	12	16	20		20
RESEARCH	No research is conducted	Literature is reviewed but no primary research or analysis is conducted	Research and literature are conducted, but gaps are still present	Research and literature reviewed are appropriate, but basic or general	Thorough research is conducted and the appropriate literature is reviewed	Original research is conducted using primary and high-quality resources; appropriate references are included		
Research points	0	4	8	12	16			20
VISUALS	No visuals are present	Visuals are present, but are confusing	Visuals work in a standard, predictable fashion, delivering a clear message	Visuals are present and begin to tell a story that supports exploration of the motivating question	Visuals add value to the piece but could still benefit from refinement and/or improved placement	Important data is presented in a visually compelling and thoughtfully designed format; work is located meaningfully		
Visuals points	0	1	2	3	4	5		5
tone	Tone does not match the piece of writing; is either too formal or informal; audience was not considered closely enough when writing	Tone is mostly inappropriate	Tone is still inconsistent, though more of an academic voice begins to emerge	Tone does not distract too much from the writing	Tone is professional and consistent, only a few small areas could use improvement	Tone is informative and appropriate for the assignment; language is academic and accessible for the intended audience		
tone points	0	1	2	3	4	5		5
						TOTAL		100

If you think you may want help:

- * Make an appointment with Jaime!
- * Connect with your faculty.
- * Explore the Comm. Lab website:
<http://be.mit.edu/communicationlab>