

**SAS Honors Seminar 256:
Extraterrestrial Life**

10/13/2011

Reading for Tuesday (10/18)

Bennett & Shostak 7.2, 7.4, 8.1-8.4 – life on Mars!

**Sheehan (2003) – an interesting interpretation of
apparent features on Venus**

Response paper for Tuesday (10/18)



Explain whether and/or how you think that study of the other planets (and their satellites) in the solar system has improved, or can in the future improve, our understanding of our own world.

Stylistic advice for response papers (I)

Problem:

Copernicus developed the heliocentric model. This was very important for the field of astronomy.

Solution:

Copernicus developed the heliocentric model. This advance was very important for the field of astronomy.

Stylistic advice for response papers (II)

Problem:

As a future astronomer of Polish ancestry, **Copernicus** serves as something of a role model for me.

Solution:

As a future astronomer of Polish ancestry, **I** see Copernicus as something of a role model.

Stylistic advice for response papers (III)

Problem:

Copernicus's **work** is qualitatively similar to modern theoretical **astrophysicists**.

Solutions:

Copernicus's work is qualitatively similar to **that of** modern theoretical astrophysicists.

Copernicus's work is qualitatively similar to modern theoretical astrophysicists'.

Stylistic advice for response papers (IV)

Problem:

De revolutionibus orbium coelestium **was an idea**
that revolutionized our understanding of science.

Solutions:

De revolutionibus orbium coelestium **contained**
ideas that revolutionized our understanding of science.

De revolutionibus orbium coelestium **was a book**
that revolutionized our understanding of science.

Stylistic advice for response papers (V)

Problem:

As a scientist, Copernicus made substantial **scientific** contributions to our understanding of the cosmos.

Solution:

As a scientist, Copernicus made substantial **intellectual** contributions to our understanding of the cosmos.

Stylistic advice for response papers (VI)

Problem:

Copernicus **utilized** his imagination to break free from the then-accepted Ptolemaic view of the solar system.

Solution:

Copernicus **used** his imagination to break free from the then-traditional Ptolemaic view of the solar system.

Stylistic advice for response papers (VII)

Problem:

A scientist, if **they** seek to emulate Copernicus, should make sure **their** research has ambitious goals.

Solution:

A scientist, if **(s)he** seeks to emulate Copernicus, should make sure **his or her** research has ambitious goals.