

Writing Supplement

First Assignment:

Your first assignment will have two parts. The first is to write about two pages on communication dealing with scientific areas. What are various situations or arenas where this seems to be important? Is it well done or poorly done, in your experience? Why is it important? You obviously don't have to write about *all* situations here, that is a hopelessly broad topic. DO be aware when choosing some situations to discuss that these range from almost private interpersonal exchanges, say in job or teaching situations, to large scale public discussions in the media of various issues of national and even global significance.

The second part of your assignment is to find an example in the print media of writing concerning science. (It does not have to be about probability or statistics or the like.) Do a brief critique of the piece you have found. What is its intended audience? Do you think the writing does a good job or not of communicating with its intended audience? Is it clear? What do you take away from the piece? Some obvious places to look for examples of this are "Science Tuesday" in the *New York Times*, science sections of magazines such as *Newsweek* or *Time*, or even a page or two of any math or science text you have seen in your school experience.

We shall return to these issues throughout the term, and to this assignment in particular at the end of the semester.

The assignment is **due** Wednesday, January 22. Please attach a xerox copy of the piece you critiqued to your assignment when you turn it in.