

James Riordon's Rubric For Ranking Quality of Breaking Science News

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As published in the Summer 2012 *Classroom Astronomer Magazine* (Issue 12), here is the rubric he uses to judge whether a news story is accurately portraying the way science actually works. Grade each article in the four categories. Add the total points and divide by 4 to get a grade.

	A (4)	B (3)	C (2)	F (0)
Title	Right On!	Exaggerates	Misrepresents	—
Qualifying Information (Limitations)	Qualifications are in the Top 1/3rd of the story	Qualifications are in the Middle 1/3rd of the story	Qualifications are in the Bottom 1/3rd of the story	No qualifications given.
Contextual Evidence and Controversial Opinions	Evidence and Dissenting Opinions are in the Top 1/3rd of the story	Evidence and Dissenting Opinions are in the Middle 1/3rd of the story	Evidence and Dissenting Opinions are in the Bottom 1/3rd of the story	No Evidence and Dissenting Opinions given.
Consensus	Given	———	Not Given	—————