

Your Name
CID
Section #
Your TA's Name

Your Title

To receive an "A" grade in Physics 108, you must submit two high-quality written papers. The TA's will grade them on a pass/fail basis as described in the syllabus. The papers must be submitted by the dates indicated in the course schedule. Like most college-level writing assignments, they should exhibit correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation. That said, we tend to care more about correct physics than fancy writing, and will grade accordingly.

As many students tend to be confused about the requirements of these papers, we will briefly describe the basic format that we are looking for here. As seen in this document, we only need your name, CID number, section number, and the name of your TA listed in the header. The rest of the paper should be double-spaced and have a 10 or 12-point font similar to Times New Roman. The length of each paper should be at least 1.5 pages, but no more than 2.5 pages. Because papers with some structure are easier to follow, we expect to see your papers broken up into sections (e.g. introduction, main body and conclusion).

Each paper should describe the application of a physical principle that you studied in one of 108 labs (1-6 for the first paper and 7-11 for the second paper). The application will typically come from your personal experience, something you have observed, or something you may be interested in. It should not merely be an expansion of the conclusion section from one of your labs. We want you better appreciate how physical principles operate in everyday situations and experiences.

You usually don't need any other sources besides your textbook and the lab manual to write these papers. If you do include information from other sources, be sure to cite them at the end of the paper. If you include a small quote from an external source, be sure that you indicate that it is a

direct quote and where it came from. Most of the formulas used in the labs have names that you can refer to. So don't worry about typing formulas into your paper. Feel free, however, to include rough estimates of quantities that you are discussing that will help explain your ideas, such as distances traveled, forces applied, etc.

Please do not copy homework problems or examples from your textbook into your paper. Because you have already done most of the homework for Physics 106, we don't feel that copying this information again shows much understanding of the subject material. And please do not endlessly the definitions of the physical laws that you are describing -- one concise definition is adequate.

These papers are a learning tool and should be approached as such. They also help your TAs and instructor to judge whether you really understand the course content or merely rely on your lab partners for answers. If you have been working hard to understand your lab exercises, these papers should require no more than an hour or two of effort. Just review the relevant sections of the textbook and the lab manual, describe your example or application, and explain how relevant physical principles are illustrated by that application. You'll do great!