

Multimedia Journalism: Recent Discoveries in Astronomy

On your own or in a group of 2, choose one of the major astronomy-related stories below. Each has some level of complex science content and could be explained best using images. Everyone who signs up for that topic will work together to create a multimedia package to explain what is happening and why it's important.

Each discovery includes a series of articles your group will skim to understand the different types of reporting used. These are a starting point only! Find more information and let each person in the group focus on a different area to know well.

In making your multimedia package, consider how images are used, how the discovery is described, how the science content is explained and if the article encourages further exploration. If a short video clip is best, link directly to the part of the video you want. Make sure all the media types you are using are from reputable sources.

Using these articles as a foundation, create a linked set of information using a variety of types of media that explains your topic. You should include:

- At least one still image found on the internet (with credit in the form of the url at the bottom of the image)
- At least one drawing or animation or short (up to 20 s) video you create or draw (this is not something you find, you create it and you can use AI as long as you include your prompt)
- At least one short (30s-1min) video you create that has you in it, either explaining the idea on the board, interviewing someone, giving a news briefing, etc.

The 3 requirements above can be pulled together into one video that includes them all

- Find at least one written article or post that you link to as a source or for more information
- A set of at least 3 social media posts (throwaway accounts are encouraged if you use your own, only official astronomer/science educator accounts if you are not creating your own)
 - Examples of this are seen on Twitter when scientists debate certain topics back and forth
- Any additional form of media you want to include!

Your final product: A 2-3 minute podcast/video/screencast where everyone in the group explains different aspects of this discovery. Use this to bring together all your other media.

Day 1:

Choose the discovery and your group

Read the articles

Understand the content of your discovery

Write an outline of the science content you need to explain

Find images and keep track of their urls

By the end of Day 1:

- Group members

- 5 different topics that your group explored, ideally each person explores one or two topics on their own. Show the urls from exploring each topic.
- Final topic choice
- Shared document for outline and urls for the group
- Outline of who will research what
- Keep track of what you want to add and why - you will be explaining why you added each item

Day 2:

Write up the content

Bring together images, videos and content

Work with your group on the script for your podcast/voiceover

Practice at least once

Share what you have with another group

Offer constructive feedback to them and listen to their feedback

By the end of Day 2:

- Comprehensive list of information/images/videos/social media with urls, all sources are checked as valid
- Draft of your final product
- Feedback from another group on your final product
- Outline explaining who will do what to make your final product better - take feedback from other group and from your own group members into account to improve your final product

Day 3:

Incorporate all feedback into a new draft

Share with the class

Plan for the video/screencast/podcast overview to last 5 minutes, you will show the class everything you found and explain why you chose each item to add to your portfolio of information - why does this increase understanding of the discovery you chose?

If you choose a podcast, you can have it running while someone in your group shows each item in a presentation.

Your overview should include what your discovery is, why it is interesting, why it is important, why you chose it and your thoughts on the future - that last bit can be opinion.

Astronomy Discoveries

Choose your own!

Write out what your interesting astronomy discovery is and include a few links so others can investigate it too.

Options include JWST discoveries, the DART mission, a possible explanation for dark energy and many more - check with your teacher before getting too far along this path.

Choose one from the list below

The Hubble Tension:

[Cosmologists Debate How Fast the Universe Is Expanding](#) | from [Quanta Magazine](#)

[Updated information](#) (Quanta)

[Dry content](#) for a general science-loving audience, many links embedded in the article (Scientific American)

Detection of gravitational waves:

[Conversational style writing](#) (BU)

[Includes video, focus on history](#) (MIT)

[Video explanation](#) (PhD Comics)

[Images, video, links in text](#) (Space.com)

Betelgeuse strange behavior:

[Early response](#), confusion (Sky and Telescope)

[Images, video, links](#) and general public content (Universe Today)

[Update with video](#) (Astronomy.com)

Hanny's Voorwerp

[Heavy science content](#)

[General public](#) (BBC)

[Comic](#)

[Galaxy Zoo article](#)

First image of a black hole

[Heavy science content with many images](#) (Quanta)

[Another heavy science content with many images](#) (Science News)

Find the recent update with an additional image!

Phosphine on Venus

[Content for general audience](#), many images and embedded links (Earth and Sky)

[Updated information](#) (astronomy.com)

[Updated information](#) (planetary society)

[Heavy science content](#) (Nature)

Find the update and the plans for a Venus mission!

Twin astronaut study (astrobiology):

[Overview](#) (Scientific American)

[FAQ](#) (NASA)

[Images and videos](#) (Smithsonian)

'Oumuamua, the interstellar asteroid:

['Oumuamua, the Interstellar Asteroid That Caught Everyone by Surprised overview](#) (The Atlantic)

[More detail](#) (JPL, NASA)

[Is it an alien ship?](#) (Space.com)

[Probably not](#) (Physics World)

Find the recent update!

Tabby or Boyajian's Star:

[What's going on?](#) Video (pbs)

[What could cause this behavior?](#)

[Update](#), might be aliens (Space.com)

[Update](#), probably no (earth and sky)

Trappist-1 b atmosphere (or lack of it) - (added by Akira)

Dark Matter: (added by Nick)

Include links to your final work below.