

Observing Proposal - Preliminary Draft (15 November 2012)

Your final observing proposal is due in 12 days. By now, you should all have turned in a preliminary summary of the archives for your target, discussed your results and questions with me, and you should have been studying what you need to learn to write a good proposal.

Tonight I want you to put together some kind of a preliminary draft. Turn in a write-up by the end of the night addressing the following questions. The sooner you send me a preliminary proposal draft, the more likely I will be to provide constructive feedback before the deadline.

1. What is your target? Is there anything special about it that could affect observational strategy? For example, is it very bright or very faint, does it have a high proper motion, is it in a "continuous viewing zone", etc.?
2. What space-based observatory do you plan to observe it with (if you don't have a good reason to do something else, use the Hubble Space Telescope)?
3. What instrument(s) would you like to use?
4. What instrument parameters do you need to specify? Grating angles, filters, aperture, slit width.
5. What are your constraints on exposure time signal to noise? Will this be done with accumulated exposures or 1 long exposure?
6. What other observational parameters do you need to specify? Position angle, time of year, phase coverage, coordination with other observations, etc.
7. Write a one-paragraph abstract of your scientific justification.
8. Write a one-paragraph summary of your proposed plan (basically, put your responses to the previous questions into plain English).
9. What is new or different about your proposal compared to what has already been done? Are there any compelling reasons to grant this proposal telescope time?