

In this essay assignment, the student is required to make up a story about taking a trip to Mars and back, describing the voyage to and from Mars and their experience while on Mars.

Content: 75%

The voyage to and from Mars: 30%. To get full marks, the student must make the time taken to get to Mars and back realistic and describe the interpersonal relations between the voyagers and any problems encountered during the voyage.

The stay on Mars: 45%. To get full marks, the student must describe Mars according to the information contained in the lesson and state what the voyagers did while on Mars.

Word count: 10%. The essay must be at least 500 words long. Irrelevant text added to pad the word count doesn't count in the word count. For every 50 words (rounded to the nearest integer) less than the minimum, deduct 1 mark so that, for example, if the essay is 425 words long, deduct 1 mark, but if it's 424 words long, deduct 2 marks. This implies an effective minimum of 475 words. There is no maximum number of words.

Spelling and grammar: 10%. Deduct one mark for every 5 spelling or grammatical errors (5 because the minimum word count is 500 words) up to a maximum of 10 marks. If the student writes LD or NES anywhere in the essay, no marks are to be deducted.

Anonymity: 5%. Deduct 3 marks if the student includes their House but not their name. Deduct 5 marks if the student includes their name whether or not they include their House.

Plagiarism. A plagiarized essay is given a grade of 1%, meaning that no retake will be allowed even when the retake option becomes available, to make the punishment worse than a 0% accorded for a blank essay, which can be retaken. You can check for plagiarism on the web site http://www.paperrater.com/plagiarism_checker

Extra credit: Up to 5 extra credit points can be awarded for going above and beyond the requirements or being especially creative, like writing a poem or a song about the voyage. If you are awarding extra credit, make sure to enter the TOTAL number of House Points rather than the number of extra credit points in the extra credit points window. If not, just leave the 0 in that window. That's not logical, but it's the way the site works.

Comments: Although comments are optional, it is good grading practice to indicate to the student where they lost marks and to offer some words of encouragement for any essay obtaining a grade of at least 70%.