

EPSS 264: Order of Magnitude Earth & Planetary Science

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We will rank the ESS Colloquia in order to provide a basis for discussion and critical assessment and for learning how to listen. As discussed in class, please use the nine categories, below. Remember, please try to avoid grade point singularity: the full range is there to use.

1) Motivation/Introduction

[the degree to which the speaker was able to set the talk in proper context]

2) Organization/Logical Structure

[from chaotic to well-structured - you be the judge]

3) Visuals

[was the visual channel used well? Slides too numerous, too dense, details too small?]

4) Sound/Language

[speaker audible? a mumbler? clear? eloquent?]

5) Presence of the Speaker

[does the speaker project a compelling/energetic/enthusiastic/interesting presence?]

6) Thought Provoking

[did it make you think good thoughts? Did you learn something?]

7) Questions and Interactivity

[was the speaker good at interacting with the audience, especially through questions?]

8) Scientific Significance

[Was the subject important?]

9) Overall Assessment

[a single number to rank the talk, overall]

10) Seating location

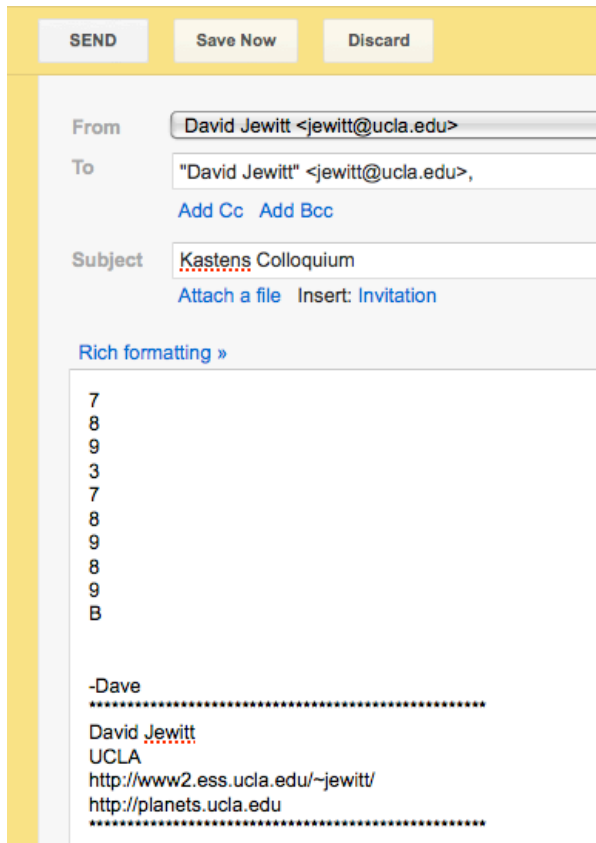
F [towards the front] M [in the middle] B [towards the back]

[See other side]

Please do the following:

- 1) Attend the colloquium and rank it in each of the categories on the other side of the paper. Please do this independently.
- 2) Immediately after the colloquium (i.e. on the same day) email me the grades in the order of the questions, on a scale 1 = worst 10 = best

For example, here are my rankings for an imaginary colloquium:



The screenshot shows an email composition interface with a yellow header bar containing 'SEND', 'Save Now', and 'Discard' buttons. The email header includes 'From: David Jewitt <jewitt@ucla.edu>', 'To: "David Jewitt" <jewitt@ucla.edu>', and 'Subject: Kastens Colloquium'. Below the header, there is a 'Rich formatting »' link and a list of grades: 7, 8, 9, 3, 7, 8, 9, 8, 9, 9, B. At the bottom, there is a signature: '-Dave', followed by a dotted line, 'David Jewitt', 'UCLA', 'http://www2.ess.ucla.edu/~jewitt/', and 'http://planets.ucla.edu'.

Warning: Beware of “grade point singularity”, in which the grader tends inexorably towards using only a tiny fraction of the 1-10 range. This is common because many people are afraid that they are either too harsh, or too generous, with the result that all the grades are 5.X and most of the range is unused. This subverts the whole grading process and is, in any case, dishonest, because we all have strong opinions and we know a 1 (or a 0) and we know a 10 when we see one.

The full range is there to use.

Note: To stay ahead of the game I *need* your rankings by the end of the day on which the colloquium is given. Thanks.