Responding to journal articles: A guide
ME 444: Continuum Mechanics
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Reading responses are creative documents. Through writing them we hope to

- parse and understand an article as it is written,
- evaluate its effectiveness and impact, and
- use it to develop new scientific ideas.

Every reading response should be tailored to the article being considered; there is no formula. It should be written in paragraphs, and its length should not be more than a page or two (please type). Some articles may need to be evaluated differently, especially those that are pedagogical, that describe scientific methods instead of results, or that review past results without presenting new ones. That said, here are a few questions that may help you respond to papers that describe new scientific results:

**Describe and summarize the article.**

- What are the hypotheses addressed in the article?
- What conclusions are drawn?
- What evidence is presented to support the conclusions?

**Analyze and evaluate the article.**

- Do the authors answer their hypotheses?
- Of what quality is the evidence?
- How well is the evidence presented?
- Does the evidence support the conclusions?
- What relevance and impact does the work have?

**Synthesize new scientific ideas.**

- How could the article be improved?
- What alternate conclusions might be drawn from the evidence?
- What predictions can the results make for future work?
- What future work would logically follow the work described in the article?