

Physics comps first version checklist

1. Breadth. How integrative do you think this first version of your comps paper is?

1	2	3	4
Mostly draws on concepts, theories, examples from one area of physics; connections to other areas of physics are limited or superficially explored.	Connects concepts, theories, examples from at least two areas of physics (and other disciplines if relevant) to provide a basic exploration of a topic.	Connects concepts, theories, examples from multiple areas of physics (and other disciplines if relevant) to explore a topic; but still additional room to do more.	Independently creates whole out of multiple parts (synthesizes) and combines concepts, theories, examples, from multiple areas of physics (and other disciplines if relevant).

List the relevant areas of physics that you feel you've drawn upon in your paper. Put a star next to the areas that you have taken courses in.

2. Depth. Your first version needs to convey your topic at a level that is appropriate for senior physics majors. The paper shouldn't spend too much time on 100-level material that majors can be expected to know, but also shouldn't assume too much familiarity with topics beyond the core courses for the major. Explain where your paper demonstrates depth and builds on 200- and/or 300-level courses you took. What content did you have to learn for the first time?

3. Storyline. How much of a storyline does this first version of your comps paper provide?

1	2	3	4
No clear organizational pattern. Includes an assortment of relevant facts, possibly grouped into sections, but does not build a coherent narrative.	Organizational pattern is observable intermittently, but one or more portions of the paper are not effectively connected with the narrative.	Organizational pattern is clearly and consistently observable, and generally provides an appropriate narrative arc.	Organizational pattern is clear and consistent. The narrative arc is skillfully designed to create a cohesive story.

4. Finding resources. Briefly describe your process for finding resources and references from which to build your paper. Where did you start your search? How did you decide on the references to use?

5. Feedback focus. What are two questions that you would particularly like your reviewers to pay attention to and provide feedback on when they read the first version of your paper?

6. References/citations. Have you included a list of references and/or use appropriate citations in your text and for your figures?

Yes

No

Your first version of your paper will not be accepted without references & citations. They are vital for your advisor not only to examine the types of sources you have been using but also to allow them to help you with any difficulties you might be having with the material.

7. Proofreading. Have you spell checked and proofread a printed version of your paper?

Yes

No

If your answer was no, please do so before turning in your paper. Nothing is more frustrating than reading a paper filled with typos.

8. Length. Ideally your word count should not exceed 7500 words. At this point in the process, the word count is provided to give your faculty and peer reviewers an idea of whether you need to increase or decrease your content. You can use the output of any reasonable word counting function/software.

Word count: _____