

# Blog Project

## **Overview:**

The purpose of this project is to develop your scientific writing skills by publishing a short (500 – 1000 word) post to the “Head in a Cloud” blog (<http://atoc.colorado.edu/headinacloud/>). The post should be a summary of a recent article (published in 2008) on a topic you are interested in that is covered in this class. Articles must be from the approved list of publications, or be pre-approved by me. I encourage you to not only summarize the article, but offer questions and commentary on it as well. For example, was there anything you didn't understand about the article? Are there other questions you have about the methodology or conclusions of the article? Do you agree with the conclusions of the article?

## **Due Date:**

Each student will pick a week of the semester in which their blog post will be due. Blog posts will be due no later than midnight Friday night of the week chosen. Failure to submit your blog post by this time will result in a 20% penalty on this project.

## **Publication Sources:**

- Bulletin of the American Meteorological Association (BAMS)
- EOS – The weekly newsletter of the American Geophysical Union
- Scientific American
- Science Magazine
- Nature Magazine
- Geophysical Research Letters
- Physics Today
- Any AGU or AMS journal publication (e.g., Journal of Geophysical Research, Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences, Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology)

## **Grading:**

Your grade on this assignment will be based on the clarity of your post. Misspellings and poor grammar will be penalized. That said, I do not intend for this project to be difficult. Rather, I hope it offers you an experience to practice your technical writing skills and learn more about a topic covered in class that interests you. As the posts are inherently in the “public” sphere and are quite short in length, there is no excuse for poor grammar or misspelled words. Remember, your fellow classmates and others will be reading these posts – Don't embarrass yourself!

When you submit your post for “review”, I will take a quick look at it and approve it for publication if there are no problems. If I find blatant grammar/spelling mistakes, I will send it back to you and make you get it right before I publish it. If I have to send it back for you to revise, you will lose points on the project.

## **Reading/Commenting:**

I highly encourage you to read the blog posts of your fellow classmates and comment on them. The blog posts will be considered fair game for test questions

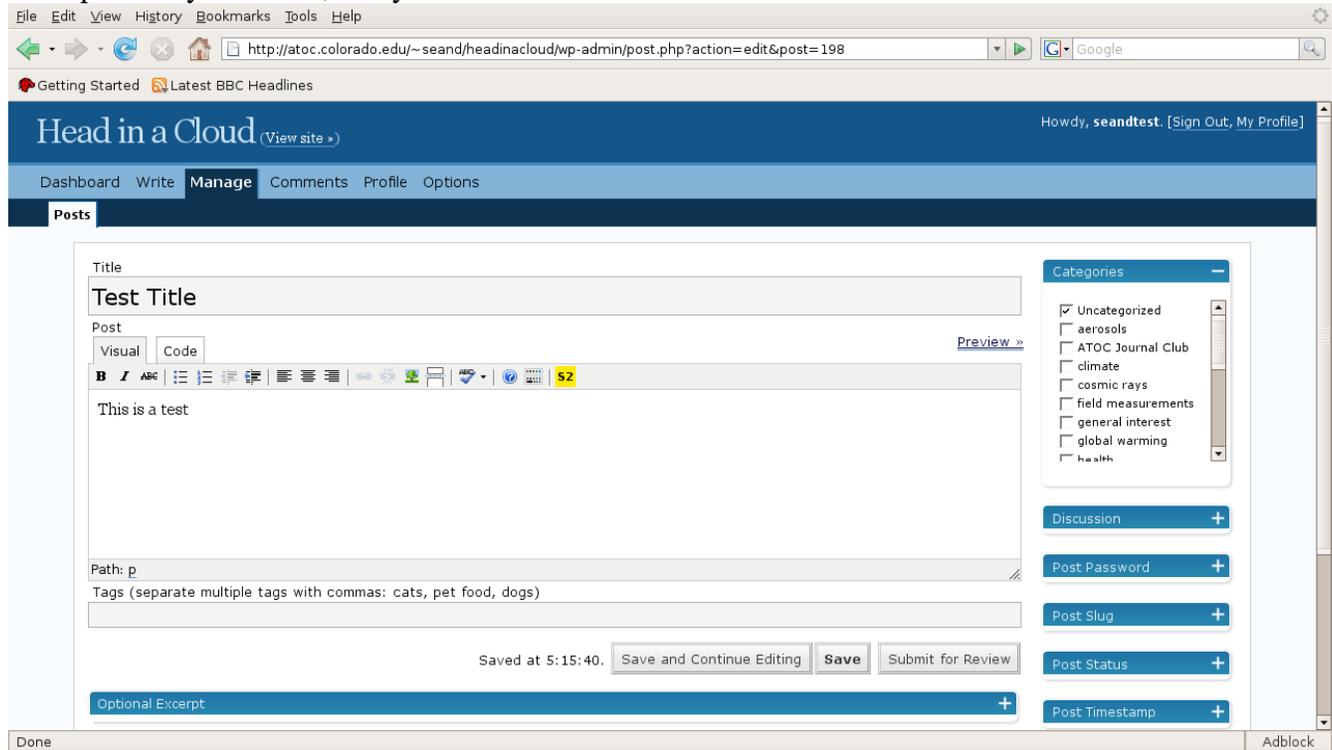
## **Registering with the blog:**

In order to submit a post to the “Head in a Cloud” blog, you must first register. Once you register, I will be notified, and will change your status to a “Contributor” so that you can write your post. To register, do the following:

1. Go to <http://atoc.colorado.edu/headinacloud/>
2. Click the link on the lower left side of the page that says “Register”
3. Enter a username and your email. A confirmation email will be sent to you with your email and password. You can now login to the blog with this username/password by clicking on the link to “Login” on the lower left of the main page.

### **Writing your blog post:**

When you log in to the blog, you will be presented with the “dashboard”. Click on the link at the top that says “Write”, and you will see the editor:



You may then type your post into the editor, or paste it from a text editor on your computer. I DO NOT recommend pasting from MS Word because a bunch of extra formatting characters get included, and may mess up your post. Once you have your post in the editor, you can format the text much like a normal word processing program. You can also add links (for example, to the article you're reviewing). If you would like to add images to your post, you send them to me and I will upload them for you.

As you put together your post, don't forget to Save. After you have done this you can click on the “Preview” link above the box where your text goes to make sure your post looks okay. When you are done, click on the button that says “Submit for Review”.

Happy Blogging!