

Fourth Short Writing Assignment
UN 2600 Nano Fundamentals

Nano in the News

We have asked you to watch for items in the media – newspapers and print media, the web, even TV -- that deal with nanotechnology. We had in mind that these would be articles aimed at general audiences from general media outlets, but information from general purpose science magazines (*Science*, *Nature*, etc.) and news services also are acceptable. We hope that each of you have at least two or three items like this.

For this assignment, we want you to write a 2-3 page essay that identifies the dominant themes that are presented in these two news items. Among the questions you can consider for this paper are these:

- What is the basic attitude they convey – optimism or pessimism?
- What are the future prospects for the developments covered in your articles?
- Is the article focused primarily on science and technical issues or on broader implications?
- If the latter, what implications are emphasized?
- Based on the ideas we've talked about in class and read about in Ratner and Ratner, are there any concerns that seem to have been left out in the articles and information you found?
- Are there any differences between articles for general audiences and information for scientists and engineers?

Paper is due on March 1.

Please also turn in copies of the articles/news stories you found and wrote about.