

A105 –Stars and Galaxies: NovaSearch III

Due in class on Nov. 2

Name _____

With your finding chart, data tables, and light curve in hand, write a news story about your discovery of a nova in Andromeda as it might appear in the IDS.

Background information about novae and about the Andromeda Galaxy is available both on the NovaSearch website at www.astro.indiana.edu/novasearch and in your textbook.

Your news story should include all the pertinent facts (who, what, where, when, why) and also explain to the reader enough background information so that he or she will understand what a nova is and why the discovery is important. The story should be interesting to the reader and also informative. Think about what questions a reader might have and try to answer them in the news story.

Include an image to help your readers understand what nova is and how it compares or relates to familiar objects. Make sure your readers understand the relative size of a white dwarf compared to familiar objects like the Earth and Sun, either with words or diagrams. Discuss whether our Sun could become a nova. Why or why not?

Remember that news stories are concise. Your news story should be about 200 words long.

Advice for good writing:

- Make every word count. Don't use unnecessary phrases like "It was thought that..."
- Use real words rather than vague words.
- Don't start sentences with "It is..." or "There are..." ~~There is always an alternative.~~
An alternative can always be found.