In class, we have been working on the use of outside sources in written material. This is especially important in science communication. When you read articles in the newspaper or in magazines about science, it is very common to read a quotation from a particular scientist. This expert testimony lends weight and credibility to information and arguments.

**In this assignment, you will write a 4-to-5-page newspaper article about black holes**, using quotations from our readings (Ferreira & Hooper in particular) to convince your readers of the scientific validity of what you are telling them. You are a journalist writing for the New York Times in the year 2509. The International Space Administration has launched a major mission; for the first time, astronauts are going to explore the region around a black hole. It is your job to explain to your readers what a black hole is, how it fits into Einstein's idea of relativity and, most importantly, why this is a dangerous mission and why safety precautions will be so important. Describe the mission, what it hopes to accomplish, what the astronauts might expect to experience, and why your readers (the taxpayers!) should be interested in the results of this mission.

Be sure to explain to your audience, who are not scientists and have most likely never taken a course like Astronomy 1109, how gravity, space, and time behave in strange ways when one is very near a black hole. Remember that while newspaper articles may not have a traditional thesis statement, they do have a beginning, a middle, and a solid end with summaries and conclusions.

**Be certain to include quotations from Hooper, Ferreira, or the authors of other works we read in class, citing their books and credentials as appropriate.** This will help you practice incorporating sources into your written work, which will factor heavily in the final essay assignment for the course. You may use other sources if you like, or if it helps you in completing this assignment.