Go to the on-line magazine “Astrobiology”, http://www.astrobio.net/news/. Read the article “Methane Suggests Mars not Dead” (post date: January 16, 2009, you may have to click on “News Archives” at the top of the page).

The word count in the article, including figure captions, is 793. Write a precis of this article in 250 words or less. If you do not know what a precis is, then read the wikipedia article:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Precis

Requirements for a good assignment

- The assignment will be graded strictly, as expected for a 400-level course. The assignment is graded out of 30 points.
- Have your name, SID, and a word count at the top of the paper. Use question-and-answer format when writing your assignment, do NOT hand in a run-on paragraph (50% penalty).
- Be typed, double-spaced, of maximum length 250 words. Assignments longer than 250 words will receive zero credit.
- Use quotations only to illustrate your point, not to make it. If you are unclear about this requirement, then speak with the instructor.
- Show completeness of information, conciseness of expression, have a logical development of ideas, and evidence of thought regarding the content.
- Be professional of presentation, e.g., no ragged ends, creases, or ink blobs on the paper.
- In all ways, the author should show pride in his/her work.