Skim-read the wikipedia article on Saturn’s moon Titan.


Pay closest attention to the physical conditions on Titan. Physical conditions include temperature, pressure, chemical composition, state (solid, liquid, or gas), and other descriptive quantities.

In class we said that life requires three basic supports: (1) a solvent, (2) the raw materials, and (3) a source of energy. Choose three conditions on Titan, one from each of the basic supports, that make Titan a high priority target for exobiological research, and make a brief statement about how this condition would support life on Titan. Note that in class I said that the low energy conditions were the biggest obstacle for life to overcome, so in your assignment you are going to have to be explicit about the energy source.

For example, on Earth you might say something like, “1. Physical condition: presence of liquid water on the surface for most of Earth’s history. Liquid water is a potential solvent for use by life.”

Note that my example was tersely worded. Note that the word limit in this assignment is extremely restricting.

Requirements for a good assignment

- The assignment is not a group project. All work must be completely original. The assignment will be graded strictly, as expected for a 400-level course. All assignments are weighted equally.
- Have your name, SID, and a word count at the top of the paper. Use numbered question-and-answer format when writing your assignment, NOT a run-on paragraph(s) (50% penalty).
- Be typed, single- or double-spaced is ok, and within the word limit. Assignments longer than the word limit will receive zero credit. Equations and diagrams can be hand written.
- Reference all sources of information you use.
- 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, show pride in your work.