Astrobites (http://astrobites.org) is an innovative science education initiative developed by graduate students in astrophysics for an undergraduate audience. Our goal is to help undergraduates make the transition from the classroom to careers in research by introducing them to the astronomical literature in a pedagogical, approachable, and comprehensible way. Every day we select one new journal article posted to the astrophysics preprint server (http://arXiv.org/astro-ph) and prepare a brief summary describing methods and results, explain jargon, and provide context. We also write regular blog posts containing career advice, such as tips for applying for fellowships or demystifying the publishing process. The articles are written by 30 graduate students in astrophysics from throughout the US and Europe and are read by 1000 daily readers worldwide, including undergraduates, researchers, and interested non-scientists.

**Content: The Astrobites Website**

**Daily posts** translate articles from the peer-reviewed astrophysical literature for an undergraduate audience. Astrobites posts are brief and jargon-free, demistify methods, and provide historical context for new research.

More than 700 articles to date at http://astrobites.org/

**Career navigation** posts offer advice for applying to graduate school, managing the work/life balance, getting the most from summer programs, and more.

**Technical how-tos** describe the latest astrophysical software from statistics packages to image manipulators to hydrodynamic simulation toolkits.

**Personal experiences** from graduate students and professors immerse undergraduates in the academic discipline.

For strategies for **integrating Astrobites into the undergraduate classroom**, see Sanders et al., Astronomy Education Review, 2012, 11 (1).

**Development: The Astrobites Author Model**

**Authoring:** 30 graduate student authors from around the world write daily posts.

**Editing:** Each post is edited by two other Astrobites authors for content and style.

**Incentive:** Graduate students volunteer their time in return for unique pedagogical and communication experience.

**Organization:** Astrobites authors and alumns sit on 10 different leadership committees which work to operate and expand the global collaboration.

---

**The Communicating Science 2013 Workshop**

The ComSciCon13 workshop will empower young scientists to communicate their research more effectively to their peers and to act as an ambassador to the public for their field.

The workshop will be held at the Microsoft New England Research and Development Center in Kendall Square, Cambridge, MA from June 13-15th, 2013.

**Applications are open now!**

http://workshop.astrobites.com/application

Graduate students in all fields of science and engineering at US institutions are encouraged to apply. Funding for travel reimbursement and accommodations is available for a limited number of attendees.

The application **deadline is March 1st**.

Participants will build the communication skills that technical professionals need to express complex ideas to their peers, experts in other fields, and the general public. There will be panel discussions on the following topics:

- Engaging Non-Scientific Audiences
- Science Writing for a Cause
- Communicating Science Through Fiction
- Sharing Science with Scientists
- The World of Non-Academic Publishing
- Communicating using Multimedia and the Web
- Interacting with the Media

ComSciCon13 is organized by graduate students affiliated with Astrobites and Chembies (http://chembites.org/) and is generously sponsored by the Harvard University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and Department of Astronomy and by Microsoft.

**Astrobites' Readership**

Astrobites receives 20-30 thousand visitors per month.

Our regular readership surveys indicate that our audience extends beyond our target demographic of undergraduate students.

![Readership Chart](http://astrobites.org/)

**Start your own bites site!**

Contact us for guidance and technical assistance in starting a bites site in your field of study. Visit our sister site at http://chembites.org/

email: astrobites@gmail.com

twitter: @astrobites

Personal contact: nsanders@fas.harvard.edu