I have designed this assignment to be an integral part of our curriculum. By that statement I mean that every observatory was chosen as essential in its contribution to understanding what we will study for the rest of the semester. The only observatories missing are the ground-based Cherenkov light detectors for cosmic rays such as VERITAS, HESS, MAGIC, and CANGAROO which I will handle and the space observatories—maybe a future topic for investigation.

You are to create a presentation readable on any computer while offline in Powerpoint-like slides. The primary goal of your work is to inform your class colleagues about your topic. Inform them of what in particular? Let's start with the basics. You are trying to tell a story including:

1. What is the observatory's name and acronym?
2. Who operates and funds it?
3. Where it is located?
4. What kind of light or emanations it is designed to detect?
5. Why this detection is important and useful to astrophysics knowledge?
6. What is the design of the telescope or instrument?
7. What is unique about the instrument's design?
8. If already operable what discoveries has it made?
9. Did you keep it under 8-10 slides?

The evaluation rubric will consider:

1. How well the presentation answers the questions above.
2. How well the presentation develops an interesting storyline.
3. The presentation's overall professionalism. (No flashing dancing buttons and other attributes with juvenile appeal.)
4. The presence of appropriate illustrations.
5. The clarity of the ideas expressed.
6. The omission of any key ideas.

Please follow these tips (not suggestions). Learn how to resize the resolution of a photo to match the task at hand, that a Powerpoint slide. The image should be no more than 72 dpi at the size you decide but not bigger than 7.5 inches by 10 inches which is the size of the pages we are using. I can help you learn how to do this on a Mac but not in the PC realm.

If you copy text from a web site I suggest pasting it into a plain text document first in order to shed any metadata that was attached to it in its web page. This little wrinkle can really much up a poster presentation. I have honors students with a poster that looked fine on the computer screen but simply would not print because of the hidden metadata.

Suggestions. (Use if they are helpful.) See if you can develop an interesting story line. Start in word processing and not in your slide-making program. First focus you story by writing only your slide titles, thus fixing the number of topics and roughly the number of slides. Use that outline to develop a storyboard of your presentation's illustrations. Or develop the storyboard first and then add the slide titles. Write out the text or an outline of the text you will speak. These are not the words on you slides (I hope) because if you plan to simply read the text on your slides, then I could just give you the F or D right now and save us both a lot of trouble. On this assignment I want you to be a Powerpoint minimalist. Aim for six or fewer lines and three or fewer words per line.