

Trip to the Stars Activity

Some helpful websites include:

Interstellar Travel: A Family Affair?

http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2002/02/0220_0220_wirelifeinspace.html

Wikipedia Interstellar Travel, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interstellar_travel

The International Space Agency has selected you as a member of the first interstellar voyage and is interested in your input about which star system should be the first one visited by terrestrial beings, so you have some very important decisions to make about this voyage for you and your crewmates. In your **one to two page, double-spaced, typed** plan include responses to all of the following:

1. To what star system would you like to travel and why? Where and how far away is it?
2. What propulsion system are you using? Based on that answer, at what **percentage** of the speed of light are you traveling? Assume that you **cannot** travel faster than or at the speed of light. How long, in years, will it take to get to your destination?
3. What is your role on the starship and why did you select that role? What are your responsibilities? Keep in mind that your life and those of your crewmates in part depends on your ability to carry out your responsibilities efficiently, competently, and safely.
4. What characteristics should your crewmates possess? What roles will they play? Remember that you may be on board for several years and small spaces can generate unusual social problems and situations.
5. What personal possessions would you take with you and why? Remember that space on a starship is limited and that your crewmates will not appreciate you taking more space than you should.
6. What items will you all need to survive and why? How will you justify the need for those items to the International Space Agency?
7. What experiments will you and/or your crewmates undertake while on your voyage? What do you expect to discover?
8. What technological problems are you likely to encounter and how might they be solved? What should you do beforehand to reduce the potential of risk to your life and those of your crewmates? Remember that help is not available from planet Earth at the distances you will be traveling.
9. What other considerations are necessary?

You may include pictures and/or information obtained from additional sources, however you **must** include all references used, even those listed by the instructor, and **type** this assignment in order to receive credit!