

Markdown transcription assignment (Assignment 2)

Turn the following article (from NYT Science section) into a proper Markdown document (using headers, bold, italic, links, and photo inserts). Remove the URLs following the links and image and the h1, h2, h3 tags following the headers (*i.e.*, anything in parentheses) and replace them with the appropriate Markdown formatting marks.

The top few lines of your file should include the following information (“metadata”) followed by a blank line:

```
---  
Title:  Assignment 3 - Markdown transcription  
Author: Your name here  
Date:   Today's date  
---
```

The .md file may be written using any plain text editor. TextEdit.app on OS X works just fine, but make sure you change the file to “Plain Text” (selecting Format => Make Plain Text in the menu bar). [MultiMarkdown Composer](http://multimarkdown.com/composer4/) (<http://multimarkdown.com/composer4/>) is a popular app available for macOS that shows a live preview of your document. The free version of Composer allows you to work on a single file at a time, sufficient for this course. There are also a number of online editors available (see [StackEdit](https://stackedit.io/) (<https://stackedit.io/>) and [Dillinger](http://dillinger.io/) (<http://dillinger.io/>) , for example). Most of these offer the option to save a local version of your .md file.

Reference for Markdown/CommonMark formatting marks is available from the CommonMark help page, <https://commonmark.org/help/> (<https://commonmark.org/help/>) .

Submit your completed file with the following filename `dwheeler_assignment1.md`, replacing `dwheeler` and `1` with your name and the assignment number, to me via email at dustin.wheeler@hunter.cuny.edu (<mailto:dustin.wheeler@hunter.cuny.edu>) before the next class meeting.

A 'Ring of Fire' Eclipse Starts Thursday (h1)

Trilobites (h2)

By NICHOLAS ST. FLEUR AUG. 31, 2016 (h3)



*During the 2012 annular solar eclipse a person unknowingly walked in front of a photographer taking pictures of the 'Ring of Fire' in a park near Albuquerque, New Mexico. Credit Colleen Pinski
(Image URL: <https://static01.nyt.com/images/2016/09/01/science/1TB-eclipse2/1TB-eclipse2-jumbo-v2.jpg>)*

A ring of sunshine will blaze above parts of Africa on Thursday as the [moon](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/science/topics/moon/index.html?inline=nyt-classifier) (<http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/science/topics/moon/index.html?inline=nyt-classifier>) glides between the sun and Earth. The solar spectacle is called an *annular eclipse*, and sometimes referred to as a “ring of fire” eclipse.

Unlike its better-known relative the *total solar eclipse* (<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/08/science/total-solar-eclipse-will-end-the-day-before-it-begins.html>) , an annular eclipse occurs when the moon does not completely blot out the sun. For viewers on the ground, instead of witnessing a white halo they will see red slivers of sunlight shining around the moon’s dark silhouette.

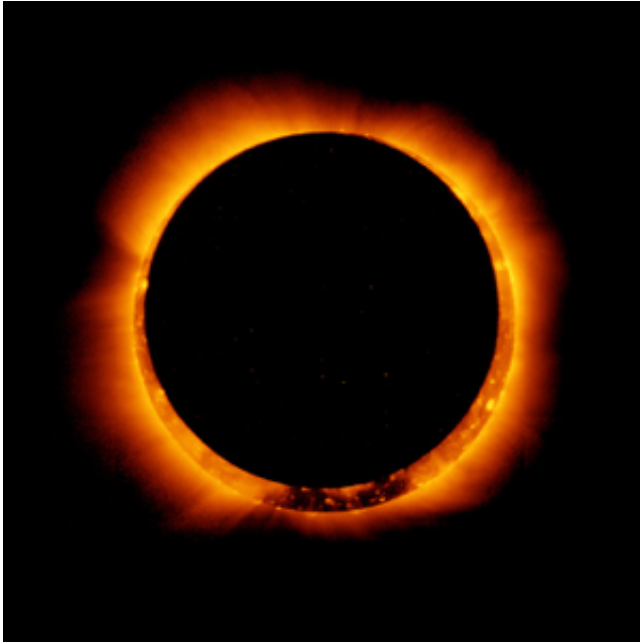
“If they look up with protective eyewear they are going to see this strange ring in the sky, more spectacularly they will see these circular shadows,” said [C. Alex Young](http://science.gsfc.nasa.gov/sed/bio/c.a.young) (<http://science.gsfc.nasa.gov/sed/bio/c.a.young>) , a solar astrophysicist from NASA. “It’s a cool event, the shadows are kind of eerie.”

The reason every eclipse isn’t a total solar eclipse has to do with the moon’s elliptical orbit. At some points along its journey it is closer to Earth and at some points it is farther away.

“It’s that sweet spot when it’s just right in between the two that you get the total eclipse,” said Dr. Young. “This is not exactly the sweet spot, it’s a little too far away.”

An annular eclipse happens about once every **18 months**. Thursday’s event [will be visible](http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/SEgoogle/SEgoogle2001/SE2016Sep01Agooogle.html) (<http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/SEgoogle/SEgoogle2001/SE2016Sep01Agooogle.html>) from Gabon, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Mozambique and Madagascar. The peak will begin around 9 or 10 a.m. local time, depending on location, and the “ring” will last for about three minutes. Nearby countries outside of the 100-mile wide path will still see *partial eclipses*.

Dr. Young said that although **95 percent** of the sun will be blocked out, anyone who is in a position to watch the event should get some special solar eclipse glasses so they do not harm their eyes.



*The moon blocks part of the sun during an annular eclipse on May 20, 2012. Credit NASA, via Getty Images
(ImageURL: <https://static01.nyt.com/images/2016/09/01/science/1TB-Eclipse/1TB-Eclipse-master675.jpg>)*

For the rest of the world, you'll still be able to watch [via livestream](http://live.slooh.com/stadium/live/african-ring-of-fire) (<http://live.slooh.com/stadium/live/african-ring-of-fire>) from Slooh Community Observatory, a network of telescopes pointed to the sky. Their broadcast will begin around 2:45 a.m. Eastern time.

[Jay Pasachoff](http://web.williams.edu/Astronomy/people/jpasachoff/) (<http://web.williams.edu/Astronomy/people/jpasachoff/>), an eclipse chaser and astronomer at Williams College in Massachusetts, will have a front-row seat to the celestial show.

He and some of his colleagues have traveled to Réunion, a remote island in the Indian Ocean east of Madagascar, in order to see it and photograph the peak. Dr. Pasachoff studies the effects that solar eclipses have on temperature and air pressure.

Annular eclipses don't provide researchers with as much interesting science as total eclipses, so he plans to use the event as a practice-run for the total solar eclipse that will cross the United States in **August next year**. Still, Dr. Pasachoff said he is excited to bask in the strange light of the annular eclipse.

"The sky looked perfectly ordinary when I arrived, but tomorrow at the same time the moon will be blocking out most of the sun from the same location," he said. "It's intellectually rewarding to see the clockwork of the universe."

The next annular eclipse will be in February over Chile.