

Assignment #9

READ these two longer profile articles:

- “Michael Faraday: Something Deeply Hidden,” from George Johnson’s wonderful book, *The 10 Most Beautiful Experiments*. Faraday (1791-1867) was a chemist and physicist. From Wikipedia: “Although Faraday received little formal education and knew little of higher mathematics such as calculus, he was one of the most influential scientists in history;^[1] historians^[2] of science refer to him as having been the best [experimentalist](#) in the history of science.^[3]” This piece is about the experiment more than the man, and is closer to an “archival” piece than a profile. Still, it gives us the human and scientific context for Faraday’s great breakthrough on electromagnetism and light.
- Elizabeth Kolbert’s *New Yorker* profile of James Hansen (born 1941), called “the father of global warming.” This piece has appeared under two titles—“The Catastrophist,” and “The Truth Teller.”

FOR CLASS DISCUSSION: We’ll discuss all three articles and the ways the writers create their portraits. I’m especially interested in how well you think Johnson describes Faraday’s experiment and what you notice about Kolbert’s profile piece, including questions it raises for you about the role of scientists in society. Come to class prepared to discuss both articles in detail.

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21W.035 Science Writing and New Media: Elements of Science Writing for the Public
Spring 2013

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