The goal of this homework assignment is to examine newsworthy astronomy discoveries through the lens of your new astronomy knowledge. You will need to identify a recent news article on a scientific discovery in astronomy. After you have read and understood the article, answer the five questions listed below about its content. Your answers to the questions should be about a page, but no more than two pages. You must turn in a copy of your article along with your write up.

Choosing Your Article:
You should keep an eye out for astronomy showing up in the news throughout the semester. Any article published since the start of the semester is eligible for this assignment so long as it details a recent scientific finding (so no historical retrospectives or overviews; just current events [i.e. stick to the “news” sections of your reference]). Some good sources of astronomy news: New York Times and other regular newspaper sources, Sky and Telescope, space.com, Scientific American (visit the course website for some useful astronomy news links). Any good article should be able to explain the topic to individuals without specialized astronomy knowledge. Nevertheless, for some topics it may be easier to explain the article closer to the end of the semester once we’ve covered more material in class. If you have questions about your article, please feel free to talk to the professor or the TA about it before the due date.

Questions:
1. Briefly summarize the main topic of the article. What is the discovery?
2. Who made this discovery? At what institution(s) are the discoverers?
3. How did they make this discovery? (new observations? new computer models? new analysis?)
4. Why is this discovery new? How does it advance our understanding of this topic? What was our understanding of the topic prior to this discovery?
5. What are the next steps for these investigators to follow up on this discovery (if this is mentioned in the article)?