

Suggested term paper topics for AST 301

1.	Solar activity and possible threats to life on the Earth
2.	Magnetars and their threat to life on Earth
3.	Novae and their threat to life on Earth
4.	Gravitational collapse supernovae and their threat to life on Earth
5.	Thermonuclear supernovae and their threat to life on Earth
6.	Comets and their threat to life on Earth
7.	Near-earth asteroids and their threat to life on Earth
8.	Gamma-ray bursters and their threat to life on Earth
9.	Causes of the major geologic extinctions on the Earth
10.	The Big Bang
11.	Galaxy collisions; mergers and collisions the Milky Way has had or will have; their effect on life on the Earth
12.	Can dark matter or energy pose threats to life on the Earth?
13.	Is there terrestrial evidence for catastrophes caused by supernovae?
14.	Is global warming significant and does it pose a threat to life?
15.	Evidence for planet migrations in the evolution of planetary systems; do planetary migrations pose a threat to life?
16.	Programs to search for near-Earth objects and their findings; is it feasible to prevent impacts?
17.	Long-term climate changes in Earth's past
18.	The Sun's evolution and consequences for life on the Earth
19.	Exoplanet discoveries that bear on the question of the origin and evolution of life
20.	Will overpopulation pose a threat to life on the Earth?