Writing ("W") Option in Physics 431

The purpose of this contract is to ensure that the student understands the requirements specified by the University of Washington to qualify for a writing “W” credit in this class. Physics 431 does not require formal reports to be completed, so the writing option must be satisfied by an additional formal paper, subject to draft(s) and revision to be completed. The topic should be related to one of the laboratory experiments that you perform in this class and must represent your own synthesis of information with appropriate references.

The W option is separate from the other parts of the course. To earn it you must do three things:

1. Notify the instructor of your intent and sign a writing option contract by the end of week 3 of the course (06 July). The contract spells out the requirements of W option courses, and the specific requirements for this course.
2. Complete a draft of your paper, which is typically 10-15 pages of text (double-spaced, 12 pt font), not including figures or references, by the end of week 6 (27 July).
3. Complete the final version of the paper by Tuesday, 14 August.

No W option will be awarded on any other basis than the above, as specified in this contract.

Here are the University rules concerning W credits:

- A W course must require 10-15 pages of graded, out-of-class writing, in the form of a longer paper plus a revision or two or more short papers.
- Papers may be graded by professors, instructors, TAs, and/or readers.
- Students should receive some feedback on their writing; that is, comments on papers should not be restricted to content only.
- Revisions do not count in the total number of pages of writing.
- Typical writing assignments are one 10-15 page paper with a revision, two similar 5-page papers, or two short book reviews and one longer paper.
- Take-home exams do not count toward the 10-15 page total, unless students are given ample time for thoughtful writing and revision, and exams are graded for writing (organization, clarity of expression) as well as content.
- Creative writing and verse writing do not count toward the 10-15 page total.
- Journals and annotated bibliographies do not count toward the 10-15 page total.
- The amount of writing required for a W is not determined by the number of credits assigned to the course. These criteria apply to all courses, even those earning only one or two credits.
- If the requirement is a major paper with an optional revision, the course may be posted "Optional W Course." The instructor will indicate the students who completed the W requirement on the grade sheet.

I certify that I have read and understand the criteria needed to earn a W credit in physics 431.

Name (Printed): ________________________________ Date: ________________