

Physics Seminars
Exercises: Expressing Numbers

Name: _____

Although no universal convention exists in scientific writing for expressing numbers, several aspects are common to all conventions. This exercise tests you on those common aspects. In the exercise below, decide the appropriate way to express the number. Corresponding information for this exercise can be found in Chapter 9 of *The Craft of Scientific Writing*.

Circle the correct choice.

- 1) The Charpy test is run by holding the coupon against a steel backing and striking the coupon with a 67-pound pendulum on a (2-foot arm / two-foot arm).
- 2) (1522 people perished when the Titanic sank. / When the Titanic sank, 1522 people perished.)
- 3) The maximum amperage for each of the two devices is (3 A / three A).
- 4) In its day, the Titanic cost more than (\$7.5 million / \$7,500,000 / seven and one-half million dollars) to construct.
- 5) During that time the water temperature dropped (.6 K / 0.6 K / zero point six degrees Kelvin.)
- 6) Our experiment had (3 / three) transducers.
- 7) The velocity was (5 / five) m/s.
- 8) (54 / Fifty-four) sets of data were taken in all.
- 9) The Titanic was nearly 900 feet long, stood (25 / twenty-five) stories high, and weighed an incredible 46 thousand tons.