

Dawn Mission Video

Developer: Jacinta Behne, McREL

Audience: Grades 5-14, Informal Audiences Ages 7+

Format: Website video

Panel Recommendation: *Recommended, pending 508 compliance, revisions next update.*

The panel spoke highly of this video; they found it entertaining and informative. The next time the video is updated, the following issues should be addressed to improve the narrative and to keep the product as up-to-date as possible (See reviewer summary and individual review forms for more detailed comments):

- Address the Vesta image (art vs. photograph) and rotation issues.
- Update with current Dawn mission info (launch and progress).
- Address the display of dust in space during the animated collision. Is this realistic or misleading?
- Address the issue of sounds in space in the video (there would be no sound, the video is somewhat misleading in places).
- Expand/define acronyms that are used.
- Make a stronger tie-in between the video and the Website.
- And it was suggested that teacher and student guides would make this video more useable as a stand-alone product.

Individual Review Summary (prior to panel telecon)

Following is the summary of the individual reviews that was distributed to the reviewers prior to the panel discussion by telecon. This information was used to guide the panel discussion; it is included here to provide a complete report of the review process.

Reviewer	Overall Rating	Recommendation
Education Reviewer	Very Good	Minor Revisions
Education Reviewer	Outstanding	Recommended
Education Reviewer	Outstanding	Recommended
Science Reviewer	Very Good	Recommended
Science Reviewer	Very Good	Recommended, revisions next update
Science Reviewer	Conflict of Interest/ did not review	Conflict of Interest/ did not review

Strengths:

- The product is appropriate for the intended audience.
- The production design of the video is very high.
- The product was free of technical problems (video and audio worked perfectly - see exception below).
- The product does a good job explaining why scientists want to study the far reaches of

space.

- The content is error free.
- The asteroid field is not too overcrowded as is often shown in film.
- The DAWN Website offers information and links for further investigations.
- The discussion of planetary exploration and the DAWN mission supports NASA-unique SMD space content.

Weaknesses:

- One reviewer felt that teacher and student guides are needed to make the video useful in the classroom.
- The video reinforces the misconception that there is sound in space (e.g. whoosh sounds as rocks fly by the camera).
- The dust kicked up by the collision of the asteroids may be more realistic for an atmospheric collision and not one in space.
- Actual images of Vesta could have been used. Vesta's rotation axis is incorrect.
- During the PI's interview, he stated that a meteor fall might be a piece of Vesta. This would be a very unlikely event. There also might be a problem, in this same interview, with 'processes going on on Vesta being similar to those that go on on Earth today.'
- The 'current' information concerning the Dawn project and launch will become outdated after launch.
- One reviewer had some pixilation of the video during playback. Older computers may have trouble playing the video.
- One reviewer felt that the introductory language was too flowery and some vocabulary used may not be understood by the intended audience.
- There are acronyms included in the text that need to be expanded and/or defined.
- The product must be made 508 compliant.

Additional Comments/Suggestions:

- One reviewer did not like the section that talked about the jargon used at meetings and felt that this could have been replaced by a section showing how science and engineering is done.
- One reviewer felt that the editing of the interviews made the show choppy. They found the editing style distracting.