RVCC GEOL-157 TERM PAPER/PROJECT GUIDELINES

OPTION A:  The 5-point option is to compose a one-page typed or handwritten essay on your viewpoint on geology now, this class, and or life in general using a geological perspective going forward.

OPTION B:  This option can be worth up to 15 points, but it will be graded using the criteria outlined below.

Half of the grades earned are awarded for a paper that meets the guideline criteria on time. The other half is awarded for style and clarity. 2 points are deducted for each day late.

- This project will involve academic technical writing.
- Your written paper must be a minimum of 5 pages length, formatted for portrait viewing, a maximum 12 point type, margins no larger than 1”, and no more than 1-1/2 line spacing.
- The total number of pages includes graphics and tables, that individually shall be no larger than 1 page each including annotation and a caption.
- The Introduction must include a purpose, scope, and plan of development for your work.
- Purpose - why is this written and what does it convey?
- Scope – What subtopics of the overall topic are addressed, or how the topic is limited in scope due to a focus on a particular issue.
- Plan of Development – what topics are covered in what order, or how the paper structured
- The Body Text will contain the background, methods, and paragraphs explaining the issue(s).
- The Discussion, Summary, or Conclusion section will precede the References.
- The final project will be hard copy report handed in before the final exam.
- I recommend using MS Word or MS PowerPoint.

References will use a proper format using the following examples:


If it is an Internet URL use the [Source Page Title, URL, and Date];

ImpactTectonics.org, http://www.impacttectonics.org, April 15, 2013 or

What does style and clarity in academic writing involve?

- logical and systematic development of ideas.
- precise use of formal language
- impersonal style
- clearly constructed sentences
- care with abbreviations and acronyms

Some ideas for topics:

- Hurricane Sandy and the Jersey Shore
- Petroleum and Gas Resources of the USA and World
- Fracking for Natural Gas in New York and Pennsylvania
- Coal Resources of the USA and the World
- Diamond Mines and the Diamond Industry
- Climate cycles effect on deposition of geological strata
- Geology and Transportation
- Groundwater Pollution
- Geology of Mars, Venus, or Mercury
- Geology Feature Catalogue in Google Earth with KMZ file