

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:

Herman, G. C., 2013, Utilizing Google Earth for geospatial, tectonic, and hydrogeological research at the New Jersey Geological Survey: Geological Society of America, Abstracts with Programs Vol. 45, No. 1. www.impacttectonics.org/gcherman/downloads/GEO310/GCH_GESymbols/GCH_GE_Geology_Apps.htm.

Van Houten, F. B., 1965, Composition of Triassic Lockatong and associated Formation of Newark Group, Central New Jersey and adjacent Pennsylvania: American Journal of Science, vol. 263, p. 825-8631.

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

ImpactTectonics.org, <http://www.impacttectonic.org>, April 15, 2013 or

Geologic Investigations Map I-2800: This Dynamic Planet, <http://pubs.usgs.gov/imap/2800/>, April 15, 2013

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 Word
- 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