

Geology 105 -- Marine Science  
Term Paper/Oral Presentation

The objectives of this assignment are to:

- Teach you the basics of designing and delivering an effective oral presentation.
- Have you research a topic related to marine science that interests you and requires some critical thinking on your part.
- Present your research in written and oral format. Early in the block, we will attempt to teach all of you the basics of designing slides in PowerPoint. For this assignment, you will pick any topic related to marine science and write a 10-page paper with research done from both the popular scientific literature and the WWW.

The topic must involve application of critical thinking. Many students are interested in a particular marine animal. However, simply writing about an animal's biology/ecology would not satisfy this assignment - you must integrate your topic to include a larger context. Examples for refining your topic are given in the table below (examples adapted from a handout produced by Mary Iber, Consulting Librarian for the Sciences). Mary Iber and I will work with you to make sure you are on the right track in this regard.

⊙ Encyclopedic	Whale biology/ecology.
⊙ Meaning-oriented	How does the media portray the decline of whale populations compared to the scientific community and what are the societal implications?
⊙ Relational	What is the relationship between cultural attitudes toward whale hunting and policies at the national and global level?
⊙ Value-oriented	What cultural factors influence people to take action or not take action on issues related to whale hunting?
⊙ Solution-oriented	What strategies can reduce the impact of human activities on whale populations?

A minimum of six (6) references from literature sources **MUST** accompany your paper. Any information taken from the internet must be organized in your own words. **YOU ARE REQUIRED TO E-MAIL ME YOUR TOPIC AND TWO STARTER LITERATURE REFERENCES BY NOON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 12TH. I WILL DETERMINE WHETHER THE TOPIC AND INITIAL REFERENCES ARE SUITABLE, AND E-MAIL YOU ANY SUGGESTIONS.**

**YOU ARE REQUIRED TO SCHEDULE AN INDIVIDUAL REFERENCE ADVISING APPOINTMENT WITH MARY IBER - time blocks are indicated on the course syllabus.**

**YOU ARE REQUIRED TO TURN IN AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY - due date indicated on the course syllabus. An annotated bibliography includes a few sentences with each reference that describe the material presented. See Mary Iber or me if you require further information.**

A oral presentation related to your term paper also is required. At the end of the block, you will give a 10-minute oral presentation to the class detailing your research. You will use PowerPoint to organize and visually complement your presentation.

Your grade for the project will be based on your:

- 1) **written paper (hard copy - no e-mails!) due on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> January at 9 a.m.**
- 2) **PowerPoint presentation due via e-mail on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> January at 7:30 a.m.**
- 3) oral presentation (to be given during one of the presentation sessions)
- 4) short evaluation you give for each of your classmates' presentations. See attached handout for additional information related to the grading protocol.
- 5) NOTE - late or non-submission of topics, annotated bibliography or failure to participate in a reference advising session will decrease your project grade.

You may browse the textbook, the website related to the textbook or the course web page to get an idea of relevant topics.

**YOU ARE REQUIRED TO ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE FORMATS IN YOUR TERM PAPER:**

Literature sources:

The following citations are formatted according to publications of the Geological Society of America. They represent typical styles of citation of sources in the scientific literature. Every scientific journal has slight modifications of this format. Remember the key here is to allow the reader of your work to relocate the source of your information. The three following formats will encompass nearly any citation in the scientific literature. In the body of your writing you refer to the source of information using the following formats in parentheses at the end of the appropriate sentence or paragraph.

(LaPorte, 1967) in single authored work.

(Laporte and Newton, 1983) where there are two authors

(Laporte and others, 1990) where there are three or more authors).

An example is: "Taking a class in marine science is good for you (Laporte, 1967).

Alternatively, you can leave the author's name out of the parentheses if it makes the sentence structure less awkward: "Laporte (1967) demonstrated that marine science is good for one's health".

Direct quotation from the literature is rare in scientific writing. Long quotes are never used. Avoid directly quoting any source.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRIES MUST BE LISTED ALPHABETICALLY, WITH A HANGING INDENT TO THE FIRST TAB STOP.**

Journal article:

Author, year, title of article: journal name, volume, page numbers. Example:

LaPorte, L.F., 1967, Carbonate deposition near mean sea-level and resultant facies mosaic: Manlius Formation (Lower Devonian) of New York State: American Association of Petroleum Geologists Bulletin, v. 51, p. 73-101.

Article in edited book:

Author, year, title of article, in editor names, ed(s)., name of book: publisher, series (if appropriate), city of publication, page numbers. Example:

Gates, A.E., 1991, Continents adrift, the plate tectonic history of New York State, in Y.W. Isachsen, E. Landing, L.V. Rickard, and W.B. Rodgers, eds., Geology of New York, a simplified account: New York State Museum, Educational Leaflet No. 28, Albany, New York, p. 11-20.

Book:

Author, year, title of book: publisher, city of publication (if available), number of pages. Example:

Stanley, S.M., 1993, Exploring earth and life through time: W.H. Freeman and Company, 538 p.

Newspaper:

Author (if available, otherwise newspaper name), full date, title of article, newspaper name, page article begins on. Example:

Stevens, W. K. October 5 1999, Will Dam Busting Save Salmon? Maybe Not, New York Times, D1.

Full text journal or newspaper articles from on-line sources:

Cite the article as you would from a literature source, but credit the database and list the date you accessed the article. Example:

Davis, L. S., 2001, A Superlative Penguin: Natural History, v.110, p. 46-55 (EBSCOHOST Academic Search Elite, January 2, 2005).

Internet Sources:

No single standard exists for citing internet sources. The principles below were adapted from the University of Minnesota Library Research Guide.

Internet site:

Individual/Organization that produced the site, date the document was produced or last revised (if known), name of the document on the site: name of the site, site URL, (date you accessed the site). Example:

Office of Protected Resources: NOAA Fisheries, April 13, 2001. Olive Ridley Sea Turtle: (*Lepidochelys oliveacea*). [http://www.noaa.gov/prot\\_res/species/turtles/olive.html](http://www.noaa.gov/prot_res/species/turtles/olive.html) (January 3, 2005).

## GEO 105 Marine Science: Bibliography Checklist

Please consult with this table as you assemble your reference list. Mary Iber and I are available to help you find appropriate sources for you paper.

	<b>Criteria</b>
	<b>Sources are authoritative.</b> Articles come from journals whose standards for publication include conscientious editorial review or peer review. For this assignment, the general scientific literature is appropriate. Relevant newspaper articles are appropriate. Advanced technical journals are generally beyond the scope of the assignment, but may be used if you understand them. Books cited are authored by individuals with appropriate credentials. Web sites are attributed to organizations or individuals with expertise on the topic at hand.
	<b>Sources are current</b> (Older articles should be justified). This is important. Your references all should post-date 1985.
	<b>Sources are varied.</b> You are required to use a minimum number of literature sources (see below). These should represent primarily journal articles, with books as a secondary, background source of information. Websites may be used to complement your literature sources. Avoid regurgitating information contained in textbooks, including the course text.
	<b>Sources are of an appropriate number.</b> At least six different LITERATURE sources are required. No single source provides the primary substance for the final product. There is no minimum number of websites required
	<b>Sources represent appropriate scope for the assignment.</b> Books and journal articles are not too highly specialized for the scope of the paper. General reference citations are used as background material.
	<b>Special-interest web resources are acknowledged as such in the text of the document.</b> Biases are explained.
	<b>Citations follow GSA citation style both in the text and in the list of references.</b> Examples are provided on the course web page.

## GEO 105 Marine Science – Grading Protocol for term paper

	“A” Range	“B” Range	“C” Range	“D” Range (and lower)
INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE	The paper demonstrates that the author fully understands the issues surrounding the topic selected. Concepts are integrated into the writer’s own insights. The writer provides concluding remarks that show analysis and synthesis of ideas.	The paper demonstrates that the author, for the most part, understands and has applied concepts learned in the course. Some of the conclusions, however, are not supported in the body of the paper.	The paper demonstrates that the author, to a certain extent, understands and has applied concepts learned in the course.	The paper does not demonstrate that the author has learned about the topic, but has thrown together a series of disparate facts.
TOPIC FOCUS	The topic is focused narrowly enough for the scope of this assignment. A concise introduction gives direction for the paper.	The topic is appropriately focused but lacks direction. The paper is about a specific topic but the writer has not established a position. Introduction does not set a clear direction for the paper.	The topic is too broad for the scope of this assignment. Introduction is vague.	The topic is not clearly defined. Introduction is lacking.
DEPTH OF DISCUSSION	In-depth discussion & elaboration in all sections of the paper.	In-depth discussion & elaboration in most sections of the paper.	The writer has omitted pertinent content or content runs-on excessively. Quotations from others outweighs the writer’s own ideas excessively.	Cursory discussion in all the sections of the paper or brief discussion in only a few sections.
COHESIVENESS	Ties together information from all sources. Paper flows from one issue to the next. Headings, if used, are appropriate. Author’s writing demonstrates an understanding of the relationship among material obtained from all sources.	For the most part, ties together information from all sources. Paper flows with only some disjointedness. Headings, if used, are inconsistent. Author’s writing demonstrates an understanding of the relationship among material obtained from all sources.	Sometimes ties together information from all sources. Paper does not flow - disjointedness is apparent. Headings are redundant. Author’s writing does not demonstrate an understanding of the relationship among material obtained from all sources.	Does not tie together information. Paper does not flow and appears to be an amalgam of disparate issues. Writing does not demonstrate an understanding of any relationships
SPELLING & GRAMMAR	No spelling &/or grammar mistakes.	Minimal spelling &/or grammar mistakes.	Noticeable spelling & grammar mistakes.	Unacceptable number of spelling and/or grammar mistakes.
SOURCES	At least 6 current literature sources, no one source predominates. Limited use of textbooks. Special-interest sources are acknowledged as such if they are cited. All web sites utilized are authoritative.	6 current sources, but several are general textbooks. All web sites utilized are authoritative.	Fewer than 6 current sources; textbooks used extensively. One or two sources cited extensively. All web sites utilized are credible.	Fewer than 6 current sources, or one source is overwhelmingly cited. Not all web sites utilized are credible, and/or sources are not current.
CITATIONS	Cites all data obtained from other sources. GSA citation style is used in both text and bibliography.	Cites most data obtained from other sources. GSA citation style is used in both text and bibliography.	Cites some data obtained from other sources. Citation style is either inconsistent or incorrect.	Does not cite sources.