



## Geology 117: The Oceans

# Writing Assignments (2)

[Home](#) | [Lectures](#) | [Resources](#) | [Review](#)

## Assignment 1

Part I (Write 500 – 750 word essay, about one long page) is **due 2/2/2007 by 5PM CST**.

Part II (Evaluate 3 example essays, 3 other student essays + your own essay) is due by 5:00 PM CST on 2/16/2007.

**Task:** write a travelogue of a highway trip across an ocean, imagining that one could do that in some sort of automobile. The audience is the readers of the Daily Illini. The article would be like a review of a vacation trip.

You must use the CPR web site to complete this assignment. More explicit instructions are included with the Course Assignment in the CPR site! Do NOT wait until the last minute, there is a lot more to this assignment than just dashing off a short paper!

## Assignment 2

Part 1 (Write 450 to 600 word Essay) is **due 4/6/2007 by 5PM CST** (this is about 1 page of 12 point type in a word processor)

Part II (Evaluate 3 example essays, 3 other student essays + your own essay) is due by 5:00 PM CST on 4/18/2007.

**Task:** \* Write an Executive Summary of a proposal for the construction and design of a new manned deep submersible (ALVIN). The proposal and summary will be sent to Congress for them to appropriate funds for its construction and design. You must make the case for a new submersible on the basis of the scientific and public benefit to the people of the United States.

\* Some aspects you might include: why current ALVIN is not sufficient for future deep ocean science, what the most important capabilities of new ALVIN should be (give at least one example), what time frame should it be ready to go, how much it should cost and what trade-offs are necessary to meet that time-frame and cost.

\* The idea is to convince a Congressman or Senator to support building a new submersible for the research community. Specific technical details are not usually helpful, but examples that are understandable by the layman such as yourself, should make it clear what is and is not reasonable and necessary.

An introduction and links to useful information regarding this assignment is on the web page "[Designing an ALVIN replacement](#)". Check out this page and its links before starting your essay. The CPR assignment will be available by Sun. April 1 for you to submit your essay. Additional goals, tips and guides and prompts are within the CPR assignment.

**All work is submitted using Calibrated Peer Review™ software.**

If you do not complete Part I by the time due, you will receive a zero for entire Writing Assignment. If you do not complete Part II by its due time, you will receive a zero for Part II of Writing Assignment. No time extensions will be given unless you can verify major illness or personal emergency.

Grading: Part I (your writing) = 30 points, Part II (Evaluation of 3 example Essays = 30 points, Evaluation of 3 other student Essays = 30 points, + Evaluation of your own Essay = 10 points), maximum of 100 points, worth 8% of total course grade (each writing assignment).

If you have questions about this Writing Assignment, FIRST make sure that you have read carefully both this entire document and all of the information on the CPR Guided Tour, described in the section "Before Starting Your First CPR Assignment." If you still have unanswered questions, contact TA Emily Weissmann.

## Getting Started with Calibrated Peer Review™ (CPR) software

You need a browser (e.g., Netscape Navigator v. 4 or later, Internet Explorer v. 4 or later, Apple Safari, or Mozilla Firefox) and an Internet connection. (NOTE: Calibrated Peer Review (CPR) does NOT work with the AOL browser. You can make an Internet connection using AOL, but then you have to switch your browser to Netscape Navigator v. 4 or later, or Internet Explorer v. 4 or later, Safari, or Mozilla Firefox.)

You will need to have a CPR Username and CPR Password to access the CPR program and complete this assignment. To create a new CPR Username + CPR Password

- 1) Go to the [CPR login](https://cpr.molsci.ucla.edu/cpr/cpr/login.asp) page: <<https://cpr.molsci.ucla.edu/cpr/cpr/login.asp>>
- 2) Then, click on the link "New users: first time logging in?"
- 3) Select "**University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign**" from the pull-down menu. Also, enter your 9 digit University of Illinois ID number (NOT your social security number). Finally, click on the "Next>" button.
- 4) Next, you need to create a password. You will also need to enter a challenge question and answer. This challenge question will be used if you forget your login information. You should enter your e-mail address too.
- 5) Upon completion of your account profile, you will be given a unique CPR Username. Make sure that you **save** your CPR Username and CPR Password. You will need them every time you access CPR.

If you forget your previously created CPR Username + CPR Password

- 1) Go to the CPR login page: <<https://cpr.molsci.ucla.edu/cpr/cpr/login.asp>>
- 2) Then, click on the link "Users: forgot your login information?"
- 3) Select "University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign" from the pull-down menu. Also, enter your 9 digit University of Illinois ID number (NOT your social security number). Finally, click on the "Next>" button.
- 4) Next, you need to answer the challenge question that you created previously.
- 5) Then you will be given your CPR Username again. You will need to create a CPR Password, which can be the same as or different from your previous CPR password.

## Before Starting Your First CPR Assignment (CPR Guided Tour)

After entering your CPR username + password, you will be directed to take a 10 minute "tour", which highlights key information you need to know to use the CPR software and complete the assignment.

Click on the link "CPR Guided Tour" and then the "Taking an Assignment" link. Read each screen to learn important information about how the CPR assignment operates.

Take the short PreTest for new users. All of the information needed to complete the PreTest is found in the CPR tour, "Taking an Assignment." You must take the tour before taking the PreTest.

GEOL 118 Writing Assignment – Two Parts

## A) Part I of Writing Assignment #1 (500 to 750 word Essay, worth up to 30 points) begins at 1:00 pm on Sunday, Jan. 28th.

During this part, you will go to the [CPR login page](https://cpr.molsci.ucla.edu/cpr/cpr/login.asp) <<https://cpr.molsci.ucla.edu/cpr/cpr/login.asp>>, enter your CPR Username and CPR Password, and then follow the instructions for writing the essay. The most important information (given in the section on the CPR system labeled 'Writing Prompt') is given below:

Write an essay (between 500 and 750 total words) about the topic at the top of this page and explicitly explained in the CPR Assignment.

Your entire essay, including any scientific explanation, should be written in your own words. DO NOT PLAGIARIZE!

Follow these additional guidelines:

- Write your essay so it is understood easily by a student at this University.
- Include a good title that is interesting, relatively short, and informative.
- Include a good "hook", which is the first sentence or two that captures the reader's attention.
- Keep the reader's attention throughout and end your essay in an interesting and compelling way.
- Include a central theme (thesis) and use good topic sentences.
- Write an information-rich and well-organized essay that uses concrete (rather than vague) words, uses mostly active tense verbs, and contains no spelling or grammatical errors.

Here is some additional important information:

Make sure that your essay is between 500 – 750 words before submitting it to CPR or else you CPR will NOT allow you to submit it and you will get a zero for the entire Writing Assignment.

Before the essay deadline, check the CPR Web site to ensure your essay was received by the CPR system.

Make sure to save your Written Assignment to your own computer before submitting it to CPR. This will act as a backup if a problem occurs during the submission process.

Formatting from a word processor is NOT preserved when you copy and paste your essay into the CPR text box. In the CPR assignment there is a link ("How to Use HTML Tags") to learn how to format your essay. Your essay is NOT required to be perfectly formatted (i.e., with boldface or italics fonts), however, two useful html formatting tools are:

<BR> Your submitted text <BR> Inserts a line break, i.e., a single spaced blank line, and

<P> Your submitted text <P> Defines a paragraph, i.e., a double spaced blank line.

Deadline for submitting your writing is at the top of this page and on the syllabus. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE. Many students use this system and the internet, so there may be delays or outages at the time you want to submit!

## **B) Part II of Writing Assignment #1 (Evaluate 7 total Essays, worth up to 70 points) begins at 5:00 pm on Friday, Feb. 2.**

During this part, you will go to the CPR login page <https://cpr.molsci.ucla.edu/cpr/cpr/login.asp>, enter your CPR Username and CPR Password, and then:

(a) Evaluate three example essays written specifically for this assignment. These evaluations are called "calibrations." After completing step (a), you will

(b) Evaluate three essays written by your GEOL 117 classmates. These evaluations are called "reviews." Nobody should deduct points for imperfectly formatted essays. After completing step (b), you will

(c) Evaluate your own essay. This evaluation is called "Self-Assessment."

The following information gives the detailed basis for scoring of all Essay Evaluations in Part II of the Writing Assignment.

**Calibrations:** You get full credit (10 points) for a Calibration Essay Evaluation if you "mastered" it on your first attempt, which means you were within 3 points of the overall rating given by the answer key AND correctly answered 4 out of 7 Style questions and 3 out of 6 Content questions. You get half credit (5 points) for a Calibration Essay Evaluation if you "mastered" it on your second attempt. You get no credit (0 points) for a Calibration Essay Evaluation if you did not master it on either attempt.

**Reviews (Evaluations of Other Student Essays):** You get full credit (10 points) for each Evaluation of another student's Essay if your overall rating score was within 3 points of the average rating score by all students (and instructors) for that Essay. No credit is given if your rating was >3 points from the average rating by all students for that Essay. The instructor and TA will also be evaluating the essays.

**Self-Assessment:** You get full credit (10 points) for your review of your own Essay, if your rating score was within 2.5 points of the average rating by other students. Half credit is given if you were within 3.5 points of the average rating by other students + no credit if you were >3.5 points of the average rating by other students.

You must complete Part II by 5:00 pm (Central Standard Time) on Friday (Feb. 16). If you do not complete Part II by due time, you will receive a zero for Part II of the Writing Assignment.

### **C) After Writing Assignment #1 ends on 3 pm on Friday, Feb. 16**

You can check your results for the assignment by logging onto the [CPR Web site](https://cpr.molsci.ucla.edu/cpr/cpr/login.asp) again [<https://cpr.molsci.ucla.edu/cpr/cpr/login.asp>](https://cpr.molsci.ucla.edu/cpr/cpr/login.asp).

If you have questions about this writing assignment, FIRST make sure that you have read carefully both this entire document and all of the information on the CPR Guided Tour, described in the section "Before Starting Your First CPR Assignment." If you still have unanswered questions, contact the TA [Emily Wisseman](#).

[Home](#) | [Lectures](#) | [Resources](#) | [Review](#)