

# Earth Science in the News Investigation

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*DUE:MM/DD/YYYY in class OR by email PRIOR TO CLASS*

This is a ‘mini-essay’ assignment for which you will be reading a news article focused on a specific earth science topic that we will be discussing in detail during this course. The purpose of this assignment is to get you thinking about how the material covered in this course is relevant to society and to your daily life. Be thinking in those terms as you read through the article.

For this investigation, **PICK ONE** of the three articles located on the course website in the ‘Week 3 assignments’ folder. **I encourage you to read all three articles, but you are only responsible for writing a response for ONE ARTICLE.** The articles cover three different subjects that will be fundamental topics in this course: (1) Earthquake hazards and prediction (to be covered Week 10; Chapter 11 in your textbook); (2) Water resources and management in the southwestern US (covered Weeks 13-14; Chapters 16 and 17 in your textbook); and (3) the impacts of Global Warming (covered in Weeks 15-16; Chapter 21 in your textbook).

## **In your response write-up, you need to:**

- (1) Provide a one-paragraph summary of the article chosen
- (2) Discuss what earth science topics/processes/concepts are central to the article (Looking through the course syllabus and textbook table of contents may help)
- (3) Answer the following questions:
  - (a) How is the article’s topic relevant to society as a whole as well as to your personal life? If you do not think it is relevant, discuss why not.
  - (b) What information/concepts discussed in the article are you already familiar with?
  - (c) What questions do you have about the article that you expect and hope will be answered during this course?

The article write-up must be typed (Microsoft Word or similar) and should be ~ 1 single-spaced page (~ 500 words) or 2 double-spaced pages of 12 point font, with standard margins (~ 1 inch on all sides). Provide a title and your name at the top of the page. Write-ups can ***either be printed out and handed in during class -OR- can be emailed to me directly PRIOR TO CLASS ON THE DAY THE ASSIGNMENT IS DUE.*** If you hand in your write-up late, it will be docked 10% for every day it is late.

## **Grading Criteria:**

- Article summary - **30%**
- Discussion of earth science topics - **20%**
- Responses to three questions - **30%**
- Writing quality and grammar (use SPELL CHECK!) – **20%**

You will be revisiting your article and write-up on the final exam. Specifically, on the final exam you will need to think about how your understanding of the article has changed during the course of this term. Keep this in mind as we progress through the semester and you continue to develop as budding earth scientists!