

Geology Article Assignment (25 points)

Part One (10 points): Find and read **two** recent, detailed, substantive news articles on geological topics. Print out or make copies of these articles, include the full reference information (title, author, publication, publication date), and hand them in to me ***no later than class time on Monday, November 9 or Tuesday, November 10 (depending which section you're in)***. Do NOT send them electronically. No late assignments will be accepted. Pay close attention to the following guidelines – failure to follow them will result in loss of points *and* being assigned an article of **my** choosing.

- The article must be no more than 2 years old.
- The article must be several pages (as opposed to several paragraphs) in length. If there is any doubt about the length of an article, find one that is longer!
- The article should come from a reputable main stream newspaper or magazine (for example, the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *National Geographic*, *Scientific American*). You may obtain it from the web if you want, but will need to have the full reference for when/where it actually appeared IN PRINT.
- **Internet-only sources are not acceptable** for this assignment.
- The article should deal specifically with the *science* of geology. Articles merely describing destruction resulting from a natural disaster, for example, would not qualify. In general, the more in-depth the author's discussion, the more suitable the article is for the purpose of this assignment.

I will assign one of your two articles to you for the second part of the assignment (below). In the event that both of your articles have already been assigned to a classmate, I will select a different article for you to use. Therefore, the sooner you turn in the assignment, the more likely it is that you will get an article of your choosing. Also, selection of presentation dates (see below) will occur in the same order in which the first part of the assignment is submitted and approved. You can also bring an article by during my office hours and show it to me in the weeks prior to the final due date, and I can tell you whether or not it is acceptable. These are all good reasons for doing this project ASAP rather than waiting until the last minute!

Part Two (15 points): Give a short (3-5 minutes) oral presentation to the class, summarizing the article as well as its relevance to the course and to society. This doesn't have to be anything fancy but you will have to speak clearly and stand in front of the room, and you may want to write key points on the board to help your classmates in taking notes. Computer usage (e.g. PowerPoint) during the presentation is permitted **ONLY** for the purpose of sharing images, if you think they will aid your talk significantly. Your grade on this part of the assignment will be based on: (1) how well you demonstrate your understanding of the article; (2) your ability to put things in your own words – no reading or quoting from the article or directly from your notes! and (3) the clarity, style, length (no less than 3 and no more than 5 minutes), and organization of your presentation. Also be prepared to answer questions from me and/or your classmates. Practicing your talk a few times prior to giving it to the class is highly recommended.

Article presentations will take place on: November 16/17, November 18/19, November 23/24, November 30/December 1, and December 7/8. A roughly equal number of presentations will take place at the beginning of class on each of these days. Presentation dates will be selected on a first-come/first-served basis, depending on when you hand in Part One of the assignment (see above). If you are not in class the day and time you are assigned to present, you will receive a 0 for this part of the assignment.