Geology 206

**The poster project**

Each student must present their own poster project. A poster is a visually-oriented stand-alone presentation of a topic. **You must present your poster in order to receive credit for this assignment.**

**Topics for Poster Projects:**

 The topic must be related to the evolution of the Earth. This includes paleogeographic (history of past landscapes) and paleontological topics. In addition to the final poster project, you will be asked to write an abstract for your posters according to the instructions at the end of this handout. You should check with me about the topic of your poster before turning in your abstract.

**Your poster must include the following elements:**

• A **title** and your **name** should be prominently displayed. The title is usually less than fifteen words long. Make the letters in your title at least two-thirds of an inch tall ( = **48-point** or greater type).

• An short **abstract** that summaries the main points of you poster. (See info below.)

• A poster is designed around several **graphical elements** (photographs, drawings, maps, or graphs). You should have at least four, but no more than ten graphical elements. Each graphic element should have a caption that briefly explains its significance to the topic. Arrange the graphic elements so that that they help tell the story of your poster and illustrate the main points. You may use pictures or graphs, etc. copied from other sources, but you **MUST reference** the source of all graphic elements. In addition, **you need to include at least one graphic element that you have produced yourself** (a photography you took, or map, graph, or diagram that you have drawn yourself).

• The **text** of the poster should contain around 300 to 500 words (but I won’t do an exact word count). Be sure that you have both **captions** for the graphical elements and some **body text** to tie what the graphics show into the larger idea. ***You must reference the source of the figure in the caption (if you made the figure, include your last name as the reference****).* The text must be typeset. Use at least 18 point type for the captions and the body text. If you use the exact wording of a source, place that wording in quotes; **don't plagiarize**!

• The **bibliography** of your sources must be shown in one of the bottom **front** corners of your poster. Use standard research paper format for the bibliographic entries (for instance, they should all start off with an author's name and include the date published and the title of the publication) whether the source is a book, magazine or journal article, internet website, or an interview. Ask me if you are unclear about the format or check out the following web sites. You must have at least 4 different sources. You may use your textbook as one source, and you may use reliable web sites, but **you must have least one must be a book, magazine, or journal article that are currently in print form**. Do NOT **plagiarize**; this includes lifting whole paragraphs off the internet (even if you reference the paragraph)!

**Bibliography format:** Each print source should be listed in the order of the APA Style Guide (Author. (Date). Title. Publisher, etc.). Examples from <http://www.liu.edu/CWIS/CWP/library/workshop/citapa.htm> shown below:

Book:

 Okuda, M., & Okuda, D. (1993). *Star trek chronology: The history* *of the future.* New York: Pocket Books.

Newspaper Article:

 Di Rado, A. (1995, March 15). Trekking through college: Classes explore modern society using the world of Star trek. *Los Angeles Times,* p. A3.

Websites:

 National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Jet Propulsion Laboratory. (2007). *Mission could seek out Spock's home planet.*Retrieved January 7, 2009, from PlanetQuest: Exoplanet Exploration.  Web site: http://planetquest.jpl.nasa.gov/news/planetVulcan.cfm

The posters are due **Friday June 1.** As you enter the room, you will get two "poster evaluation" forms. You will peer review two other posters, according to the directions on the form; you will turn in these forms.

# Poster abstract

Writing an abstract of a larger publication you have researched is a crucial skill for any profession. For the poster project, **please write a short 100-150 words abstract** about your poster topic. This will be **due May 18 at the start of class (10 a.m**.) The abstract may be submitted as an electronic file (either MSWord or PDF) as a disk copy attachment by e-mail sent to me at : khoppe@greenriver.edu. The e-mail should be titled “GEL 206 poster abstract.” I strongly recommend that you approve your poster topic with me before you submit your abstract.

The format of the abstract should be as follows:

**1st line = Author’s (that’s you) name in bold.**

2nd line = TITLE OF YOUR POSTER (IN ALL CAPS)

(Note: It’s okay if your title is longer than 1 line)

3rd line = start the body of the abstract

An example of an abstract:

**Kathryn Hoppe,** Green River Community College

ADDRESSING DISTANCE LEARNING PROBLEMS IN GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

 A great majority of distance learning geology courses tend to rely on multiple choice exams as the principle method of student evaluation. As a consequence, students are tested on definitions and anecdotal information rather than on a synthesis of course material. One solution to this problem is to have students write essays using a “natural language” text reader that will use common writing pattern and matching algorithms in order to prompt and guide the student at appropriate times. This study compares student’s performance on both types of exam questions and suggests strategies for integrating essays into distance learning classes.

# General Guidelines for Writing Informative Abstracts

Abstracts are often the least considered but most important part of any project. Most readers of a journal will read most of the abstracts, but very few will read the full papers. Perhaps 95% of readers will read *only* the abstract.

The abstract should not be a table of contents in prose; neither should it be an introduction. It should be an informative summary of your poster. Tell the reader about your topic, but not how the poster is organized. The main points of your poster must be summarized.

**Style:** Do not write in the first person in *any* form. Thus, not only should you avoid "I", but also "we", "the author", "the writer" and so on. Again, this is because the abstract should be about the topic, not about the act of writing.