

GEOS 397: Guidelines for Term Project Written Report (Fall 2016)

Each student group is responsible for submitting a pdf version of the written report that accompanies their GEOS 397 oral presentation and term project. On the next page you will find the rubric used to assess your written report. The format of the written report should follow a scientific peer-review publication, the components of which are identified in the rubric.

You'll find some tips on writing in the SEG's Leading Edge here:

<http://tle.geoscienceworld.org/content/by/section/Writer's%20Block>

I have also uploaded a paper by Kenneth Mahrer (1993) about writing scientific abstracts. I suggest that you read this prior to writing your abstract.

Write in the active voice. If you do not know the difference between active and passive voice, then look it up. You'll also find a paper on this subject in the list of articles at the above website.

Finally, here is another good resource by someone who used to work here at BSU.

<http://cgiss.boisestate.edu/~billc/Writing/writing.html>

There are many links to good articles about scientific writing. Check them out!

Bibliography:

Use the AGU citation style.

<http://publications.agu.org/author-resource-center/text-requirements/reference-format/>

From the AGU website, you can download Microsoft word and LaTeX templates that will allow you to properly format your paper and citations.

Rubric for Evaluation of Term Project Reports

Category	4 = Superior	3 = Good	2 = Acceptable	1 = Unacceptable
Abstract, Title & Author(s) (15%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> title clearly identifies the main question solved or work performed abstract highlights most important findings with enough information to understand experiment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> title identifies the project abstract is not well organized or concise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> title does not identify the work abstract only a listing of facts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> either the abstract or title are missing
Introduction (20%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> presents the background information and previous work in a concise manner that directly leads into the question(s) being addressed and the purpose of the research does not contain superfluous information and/or is not <i>wordy</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lists the facts and previous work, but does not tie them together and show how they lead to the purpose of the present work and the questions being addressed contains the question(s) being addressed and some purpose for doing them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> gives very little background or information may include the question(s) but does not identify the purpose contains significant superfluous information (<i>filler</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> does not include background or previous work does not identify the purpose, the project, or the question(s) being addressed contains significant superfluous information
Method(s) (20%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> presents easy-to-follow steps which are logical and adequately detailed is written in paragraph form with diagrams as needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> most of the steps are understandable; some lack detail or are confusing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> some of the steps are understandable; most are confusing and lack detail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> not sequential, most steps are missing and/or are confusing
Data & Results (20%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the figures contain all the information needed to understand the data all the figures flow in a clear and understandable fashion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> data is accurate and presented in a clear fashion both figures titles and legends are present, as well as appropriate annotation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> data appears accurate figures missing titles and/or legends and are not very clear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> figures missing information and are inaccurate either titles or legends missing from figures figures do not related to discussion in text
Conclusion (15%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> presents a logical and clear explanation for findings and how findings address the original questions suggests what the next experiments would be if this study proceeded and puts this research in context of current state-of-the-art 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> presents a logical explanation for findings and addresses some of the questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> presents an illogical explanation for findings and addresses a few questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> presents an illogical explanation for findings and does not address any of the questions suggested in the template
Grammar, Spelling & Citations (10%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> all grammar and spelling are correct paragraphs are well organized all references are properly cited and bibliography is complete and in the proper format 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> only one or two grammar/spelling errors some statements lack evidence or proper citation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> more than two grammar/spelling errors many statements made without supporting evidence and citations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> very frequent grammar and/or spelling errors no referencing or citing of previous works