

“Geological Field Guide” Final Report Instructions (120 pts)

Project Goals: The goal of the final report is to prepare a “Geological Field Guidebook” to a national or state parkland of your choosing that you could use – *in the field* – to explain its geology and landforms. Have fun with this assignment and write about rock formations/features that interest you!

***NOTE: No doubt you will use numerous references when researching your report. BUT... I will not accept directly copied or plagiarized NPS reports or summaries! Use the references from class materials, library resources, online NPS references, etc. to write your own Geological Field Guide.

October 15th 2015: Deadline for parkland selection via an online sign-up sheet in *Canvas*.

December 3rd 2015: Guidebooks are due 5:00 pm; late reports will receive 2% grade reduction per day.

December 8 & 10th 2015: Classroom group final presentations (~10 minutes per group).

Required Components of the Final Report:

Reports must be 10-12 pages in length (double spaced, 12 pt. font, Times New Roman) including figures, with properly formatted scientific references.

1. General Introduction (16 pts)

Background information on park, general features, climate, etc. You can refer to the textbook as a guide, but ultimately the writing and style for this section must be your own phrasing.

2. Outline of the general logistics for a 3-day trip. (10 pts)

Plan the transportation route, visits, hikes, etc. Make recommendations for the season of travel based on what park features will be explored. Consider important details such as travel times, meals, etc. The purpose of this section is to create a realistic and usable field guide for you and others to enjoy.

3. Geologic Guide to Three Key sites (60 pts)

This is the main part of your guidebook. Choose three key sites that you will encounter on the geology tour. For each site, write 2-3 paragraphs that describe the (1) *Bedrock geology* (lithology, depositional environment, tectonic deformation, etc...), (2) *Weathering and erosion* (how the landscape has been modified), and (3) *Environmental setting* of the parklands (e.g., wetland, desert).

4. Figures or graphics (10 pts)

Be sure to include a park map and other graphics to help illustrate your points (3-5 figures are reasonable, excessive figures with no text is unacceptable). One figure should be a map that shows the route and location of field trip sites. Include clear figure captions & reference for each figure.

5. Bibliography (12 pts)

Include a complete list of references that you used during your research. Wikipedia is not an acceptable source. Refer to the Geological Society of America citation guide on *Canvas*.

6. Group Presentation (12 pts): *Working together* in assigned groups of three to five classmates with similar parkland topics, present a ~10 minute PowerPoint summary of the geology of their topics.