

Essay assignment.

- ☒ Indicative length: 2000 (\pm 500) words, not including references.
- ☐ Use the [manuscript template](#) to follow *Geology*'s [formatting requirements](#).
- ☐ Text double-spaced, 12 pt, Times New Roman, including continuous line numbers.
- ☐ Figures (maximum 4) included at an appropriate position in the text, each close to its first citation.
- ☐ Document submitted anonymously.

Evaluation area		Excellent (70–75) Outstanding (76–85) Exemplary (86–100)	Good (60–64) Very good (65–69)	Sound (50–59)	Acceptable (40–49)	Insufficient (30–39) Unacceptable (<30)
Knowledge and Understanding (30%)	A: Discovery, synthesis and understanding of relevant literature B: Clear understanding of how fossils can be applied to understand Earth history, including (C) limitations of the fossil record					A: Limited engagement beyond microsite's key literature
Critical analysis (40%)	F: Analysis of the literature underpinning each argument presented on microsite G: Evaluation of the strength of evidence and quality of underpinning research H: Implications of controversy placed in broader scientific context					F: Substantial gaps in understanding content written on microsite G: Reference to primary literature without evaluation H: No indication why topic would interest non-specialists
Communication (30%)	S: Development of convincing narrative T: Evidence connected to argument with clear logical flow U: Mature, engaging and lucid prose; meticulously copyedited					S: Independent arguments do not build a coherent picture T: Reader must work hard to understand how evidence relates to argument
Overall grade / 100						