

**Essay assignment.**

- ☒ Indicative length: 2000 ( $\pm$  500) words, not including references.
- ☐ Use the [manuscript template](#) to follow *Geology*'s [formatting requirements](#). (You don't need to follow the structure required of a *Geology* article).
- ☐ 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)<br>Outstanding (76–85)<br>Exemplary (86–100) | Good (60–64)<br>Very good (65–69) | Sound (50–59) | Acceptable (40–49) | Insufficient (30–39)<br>Unacceptable (<30)  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|---|
| Knowledge and Understanding (30%) | A: Discovery, synthesis and understanding of relevant literature<br><br>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<br><br>G: Evaluation of the strength of evidence and quality of underpinning research<br><br>H: Implications of controversy placed in broader scientific context |  |                                   |               |                    | F: Substantial gaps in understanding content written on microsite<br><br>G: Reference to primary literature without evaluation<br><br>H: No indication why topic would interest non-specialists |
| Communication (30%)               | S: Development of convincing narrative<br><br>T: Evidence connected to argument with clear logical flow<br><br>U: Mature, engaging and lucid prose; meticulously copyedited  |  |                                   |               |                    | S: Independent arguments do not build a coherent picture<br>T: Reader must work hard to understand how evidence relates to argument   |
| Overall grade<br><br>/ 100        |  |  |                                   |               |                    |   |