

Regional Climatology Research Paper and Presentation Guidelines

Topic Selection:

Choose a climatologic topic of interest to you. Implicit to the understanding of regional climatology is the concept of areal distribution of climates. As such, your topic must address a climatic theme as it is applied to a region. You may decide the scale of your region (macro or microclimatology); however, the region must be defined by climate. Be specific in your topic selection. Do not choose broadly defined topics such as “The Climate of Polar Regions”, or “The Climate of the Tropics”; rather choose an in-depth topic such as: “The Polar Climate of Greenland” or “The Tropical Climate of the Madagascar Rainforest”. You could choose to address a very specific topic such as “The Climatic Geomorphology of Antarctica”. Pursue and develop the topic through research.

Example Topics:

1. Climate and Desertification in the Sahel
2. The Cost of Climatic Change in the U.S.
3. The Climate of Urban Regions
4. Impacts of the Little Ice Age in Europe
5. Rainforest Climates and Deforestation
6. The Monsoon Climate of Nepal
7. The Influence of Hurricanes on Climate in the American Southeast
8. The Effects of Relief on the tropical Climate of Hawaii

There are many topics from which to choose. If you are uncertain about a topic, please come see me. It will only take a few seconds to make sure that you are on the right track to a good paper. If you want to deviate from the topic as assigned due to personal interest in a specific area, you **must** speak with me and gain my approval.

Illustration/Map:

Include two illustrations or maps in your paper. Be sure to reference the illustration in the body of the paper. It makes no sense to include an illustration and not ever mention it. For example, refer to it in your paper as “see Figure One”, having the illustration labeled as “Figure One”. Be certain to include the source of the illustration. The illustration must be neat and clearly readable.

General Paper Rules:

Your paper must have a **purpose statement, introduction, and conclusion**. Use climate terminology from the readings and lectures when writing the paper. This paper should be six typewritten, double-spaced pages in length and very concise. Do not use a bizarre font or a point size greater than 12. Your margins must be set to 1" on all four sides. The paper must have, at a minimum, **six** bibliographic entries in a correct format. Complete citations for Internet sources must be included. Use at least 2 references taken from a primary source - i.e., original research reported in a journal or periodical. Do not reference newspapers or encyclopedias. Please staple papers in the upper left-hand corner. No Folders! Make sure that you make a **copy** of your paper. In the event that your paper is misplaced (which should never happen), you will have a back-up copy. It will be very difficult for you to prove to me that your paper was lost. Without a back-up paper, I will doubt that you did the paper

Presentation (10 points):

You must make a presentation from your paper to the class. The topic will be communicated to the class via a computer presentation program. Your presentation will last for a total of 6 minutes – 5-minutes of talk and 1-minute of question and answer session. Your talk should be informative and precise. I expect you to use numerous graphics to help you illustrate your points. Do not write out long sentences on your

computer-generated overheads. You may not read your paper. Be concise - do not rattle on and on. The presentation will be graded on: content, layout and organization, preparedness, response to questions, and class feedback. Before giving your presentation, you must hand me this Presentation Grading Requirements form with your title and name written in the space provided.

Presentation Grading Requirements

Presentation Title: _____

Presenters Name: _____

1. Descriptive title:
2. Clear purpose:
3. Clear introduction and conclusion:
4. Student preparedness:
5. Adequate number of graphic to illustrate major points:
6. Quality of graphics:
7. Included a map/air photo to illustrate research locations:
8. Presentation covered the topic:
9. Student supported his/her findings:
10. Presentation shows original thought and insight:
11. Performance on the questions/answer session:
12. Presentation triggered a discussion:
13. Presentation length (too long/short):
14. Overall quality of the presentation was: excellent; good; average; below average.
15. Overall insight of the presentation was: excellent; good; average; below average.
16. List of students who asked a question during presentation (each student in the class must ask at least one question - points awarded or deducted are a portion of your class participation grade):

General comments:

Your presentation grade is: _____

Be certain to include two multiple-choice questions regarding your paper and presentation. Writing a test question is not easy. Think about the presentation's main point and write a multiple-choice question that addresses that theme. The question must have an "A", "B", "C", "D", and "E" selection and a clear answer. Do not make the presentation test question too hard or easy. Type and email (a hardcopy is also fine) me the test questions. If you do not write two test questions, I will automatically take two points from your presentation grade. Be certain to give me your test questions the day of your presentation.

A Step-by-Step Writer's Guide to Research

- 1) Write an introduction which clearly tells the reader the major points of discussion in your paper.
- 2) Have a purpose statement somewhere in the first paragraph of your introduction.
- 3) Write clearly, concisely, and professionally. Do not use informal language, such as "we, you, they, them, our, yours, you know, or ok". Avoid contractions.
- 4) Do not plagiarize!
 - a) Completely original ideas need no reference.
 - b) Things that are common knowledge need no reference.
Ex: World War II ended in 1945.
 - c) Specific data sources must be referenced.
Ex: In the last 45 years, over 80 percent of Central America's rainforests have been cut (de Blij and Muller 2006).
 - d) Quotations exceeding one-half sentence in length must be referenced by source and page number.
 - e) Borrowed ideas which are not common knowledge must be referenced by source.
Ex: Some scientists feel that 2-4-5-T is a harmless product (Smith 2000).
- 5) Include a bibliography or references cited page. Use any reference style you want but stay consistent. The following bibliographic entries and citations examples are from the APA format.

Owen, O., Chiras, D., and Reganold, J. 2003. *Natural resource conservation -- Eighth edition*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey:Prentice Hall.
- 6) Online document bibliographic entry format:

Author's name (last name first). Date of Internet publication. Document title. Retrieval date. <URL>.

Climate Foundation (2007). Losing ground: Sea level on the rise. Retrieved June 27, 2001, from <http://www.benton.org/Library/Low-Income/two.html>
- 7) Citations should be employed whenever you use someone else's work. Always put citations at the end of your sentence and inside of the period. For example: Ecotourism has accounted for approximately \$100 million of revenue per year in Costa Rica (Smith 2006). Use the following citation formats:

One author – (Smith 2000); Two Authors - (Smith and Jones 2007); Multiple Authors - (Smith et. al. 1994). Direct Quotations (which I do not encourage) - (Smith 2007, 26). If you use a direct quotation longer than two 2 sentences, single space and indent both sides of the paragraph. Citation without an author – (document name, date; i.e. *Climate Change and Polar Carbon Storage*, 2007)
- 8) Include a one paragraph conclusion. The conclusion must summarize the important points of the paper. Do not introduce new material in the conclusion
- 9) Be insightful. Do not simply report cited knowledge - rethink the information, but support your opinion.