

Ocean Research Project

Introduction

In this project you will allow you to use what you have learned in Earth science class and your own research to write a detailed paper describing one of Earth's major bodies of water. Your paper should thoroughly address specific details about your body of water, and it should describe how these details interact to form a complex aquatic system.

Content

Your paper should cover the following topics:

- Geographical information (Where is it located? Describe the underwater topography.)
- Major currents, temperatures, salinity, and other information about the water.
- Natural resources (fish, oil, minerals, etc.)
- Biological information (What marine life is found there? Describe the food webs and interactions amongst the living things.)
- Past or current pollution problems and effect on wildlife
- All papers should include at least two figures (pictures, maps, graphs, etc.) that will be attached in an appendix and referred to in the paper.

Research

You should consult a variety of reliable sources for this research project. All papers should use a **minimum** of six sources of three different types. For example: two books, three websites, and one periodical would meet the minimum research requirements. Part of your grade will depend on the quality of your sources, so make sure the websites you use are reliable.

Format

The paper should include:

1. A title page with your name, the title of the report, course name, your section number, and date paper is due
2. A coherent, well-organized essay, with a logical structure including a strong introduction, body, and conclusion
3. An appendix containing illustrations, diagrams, and maps
4. A **bibliography/works-cited** page at the end of the report which contains all references used during the project (books, websites, articles, etc.). Please follow the appropriate MLA format.

The paper be 2-3 pages in length, **not** including maps, illustrations, title or works cited pages. You will be graded in part on how effectively you're able to communicate your ideas in written form, so be sure to pay close attention to such details as spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc. The paper must follow all of the "minimum writing requirements" shared earlier in the year (see handout). Staple your paper in the upper-left-hand corner (paper clips are not acceptable; please do not use folders, binders, or covers of any kind).