

OCEANOGRAPHY WRITING ASSIGNMENT: ARTICLE REVIEW

Oceanography 100

Mr. Trujillo

For this **required** writing assignment, you need to write one (1) short paper on a topic of physical oceanography (such as those covered in the textbook). Some suggested topics include:

• A particular historical event in oceanography	• Coastal erosion
• Research at NOAA (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration)	• Transmission of sound in the ocean (the ATOC experiment)
• Research at an oceanographic institution (such as Scripps Institution of Oceanography)	• The physics of surfing (not just a surf story!)
• Humans living undersea	• Methane hydrates
• Origin and distribution of any sea floor feature	• Medicines from the sea
• Marine microorganisms (diatoms, etc.)	• Economic sea floor deposits
• El Niño	• Oceanic productivity
• The greenhouse effect	• Red tides/Harmful algae blooms (HABs)
• The Iron Hypothesis	• Evolution of marine mammals
• Wave or current or tidal power as a source of energy	• Coral bleaching or coral reef development
• Tsunami	• Deep-sea hydrothermal vent biocommunities (& the “dead whale” hypothesis)
• Marine pollution (such as a particular area or a particular pollutant)	• Desalination of sea water
	• Any other current topic <u>with</u> instructor's approval

Generally, topics related to the biology of a particular marine organism are not appropriate for this assignment.

The Assignment

For this assignment, you need to find 5 published articles that relate to any one of the above topics. These articles must be from newspapers, journals, or the Internet (see below). Use the information in these articles to write your paper. In your paper, discuss briefly the main issue or concept involved; what ideas, solutions, or input to this topic you have; and how this topic relates to you. If space permits, mention what you found that was particularly interesting. Papers must be typed and in a format suitable for uploading by computer (not hand-written). The length of the paper must be at least 1200 words of text (not including your title or bibliography), which equates to about 3½ -4 double-spaced typed pages.

Age of Articles

Your 5 articles must include 2 recent articles that were copyrighted or published no later than **January 2007**.

To Be Included with Your Paper

Include a **title page** with your name, date, paper topic, and word count. The **text** of your paper comes next and must be at least 1200 words. Properly quotes sources should be in this format: “...*this is a sample quote*” (Smith, 2009). However, your paper should not be just a series of quotes; it cannot contain more than 25% quotes. Include a **bibliography** page after that lists a number (1 through 5 or more) and the exact reference for each article: author(s), title, journal name, date, and page numbers. If you have used Internet sources, list the URL address (that begins with “http://...”) with the date the Website was last copyrighted/updated (not just when you accessed it). Note that your paper must be submitted via the class Blackboard site through the SafeAssignment software package, which checks for Web plagiarism. See the article “What Is Plagiarism?” for details about plagiarism. Also, note that you may only submit the assignment once.

When the Assignment Is Due

This assignment is worth 50 points and must be uploaded to the course Blackboard site by **Tuesday December 1 at noon**. Submitting your paper early is not a problem; however, late papers will be severely marked down after the deadline (25 points for missing the deadline plus 5 points per day thereafter). Grades for the assignment will be posted within 10 days of when you upload your paper.

Sources of Information

Use only newspaper articles, journal articles, or reliable sources from the Internet as sources of information for your paper.

No handouts from class can be used for any of your 5 required sources. No books can be used (not even our course textbook!) for any of your 5 required sources; however, **you can always use more than the 5 required sources**. If you need additional sources of information, contact me. Also, these journals (which commonly contain oceanographic articles) are available in the Palomar College Library (and at other libraries) and even have some availability online:

- Discover
- National Geographic
- Oceans
- Science
- Science News
- Scientific American

Some Notes about Internet Sources

I encourage you to use online information to help you write your paper. In your bibliography, be sure to correctly document the entire URL address (which begins with "http://..."). Also, include the date the Website was last copyrighted/updated. If the site does not list when it was last copyrighted/updated (or is more than 2 years old), it cannot be used as one of your 2 sources of recent information. Also, please evaluate the source of the information: "Ted and John's Surf Spot Page" may have some unique information, but it may not be as trustworthy as the US Navy's Website on waves (see also "[Evaluating Internet Resources: A Checklist](#)" at my Website). Please note that a single root Website can be used as only one reference (even though there may be many separate pages at that site).

How Will the Assignment Be Graded?

A complete, accurate, thoughtful, and well-written paper will receive 50 points. Points will be deducted for:

- **Clarity and Usage:** 1 to 5 points will be deducted for any paper in which the language is so muddled as to be unclear; or if words chosen are generally inaccurate or imprecise; or if errors in punctuation, spelling, grammar, or English usage are highly distracting.
- **Topic:** 1 to 10 points will be deducted for any paper that has an inappropriate topic not within the range of physical oceanography.
- **Content:** 1 to 10 points will be deducted for any paper that has extraneous content outside of the normal areas of physical oceanography; or displays content not pertinent to the topic or otherwise weak content.
- **Length:** 1 to 25 points will be deducted for any paper that is less than 1200 words in length using the following cutoffs: -2 for 1100 words or less; -5 for 1000 words or less; -10 for 800 words or less; -25 for 600 words or less.
- **Number of References:** 1 to 5 points will be deducted for using less than the 5 required references; or for using 1 root Website (even though it may contain many separate pages) as more than 1 reference; or for using inappropriate references (any book or a handouts from class for your required 5 references).
- **Age of References:** 1 to 5 points will be deducted for not including 2 current references that are within 2 calendar years old (note that you can always use more references than the required 5).
- **Web Plagiarism Check:** 1 to 15 points will be deducted if the SafeAssignment originality report identifies plagiarism of greater than 15% match overall or greater than 5% match from any one source. Note that I will exclude properly cited quotes and the bibliography, but deduct points if your paper is greater than 25% quotes.

Note that late papers will be marked down 25 points for missing the deadline plus 5 points per day thereafter.

Some Advice

The earlier you get started on your paper, the better! If you are unsure if your topic is appropriate (many general topics dealing with marine organisms are inappropriate), it would be a good idea to check with me first. If you have any questions about the assignment, don't hesitate to contact me. Happy writing!

Classic Peanuts by Charles M. Schulz

