

# **Geology 334, Sedimentology and Stratigraphy**

## **Guidelines for Field-Trip Alternate Report**

Due Date: Thursday May 23, 2019

For students who cannot attend the field trip, you can write a short research report on a topic of your choice in the general area of sedimentology and/or stratigraphy. I suggest you pick a topic that is interesting to you, something that you want to learn more about. You can investigate anything related to sedimentation or stratigraphy. Some examples: you might want to learn more about debris flows or sand dunes, coral reef communities, Archean stromatolites, volcanic controls on sedimentation, depositional processes of any kind of setting, geologic history of the Grand Canyon, stratigraphy and geologic history of a particular basin or a region, pretty much anything related to the broad field of sedimentology and stratigraphy.

Be sure to get approval of your topic from me before getting very far into it.

I expect people writing this report to invest about the same amount of time as people who will attend the field trip, about 1.5-2 days. First investigate your subject and take notes. You may get information from the web, the library, and/or magazine or newspaper articles. I encourage you to use the library. You need to *fully and accurately cite all sources of information, and include a complete bibliography at the end*. It is important to do this correctly. Do not copy content verbatim from your sources. If you choose to use direct quotes, please do so sparingly. Direct quotes require citation of both the source and page number(s).

Your report should be roughly 4-5 pages long, double spaced (including figures and references). Good content and high quality are more important than exact length. I encourage you to develop your report around a theme that could consist of scientific question(s), some kind of controversy, or perhaps a research problem that was solved in published studies. Or you could write an overview that is basically an informative survey of a process or region. Figures are necessary for communicating concepts in geology. Be sure to give figures your own numbers (not the same numbers on a text or article), cite the source of all figures, and make sure those sources are included in the References Cited section. These are basic requirements of a technical report.

Your report should be well written and organized. It should have a Title, an Introduction that explains the theme of the paper, other sections as appropriate for your topic, and a References section that contains a bibliography of all papers and other sources cited. Please use headings and subheadings to organize the content. Conclusions are nice but not required. The report must be written in complete, well-structured sentences and well-organized paragraphs.

Feel free to ask me about this any time.