

## **Geology 334, Sedimentology and Stratigraphy**

### **Guidelines for GSA Meeting Report**

Due Date: Thursday November 12, 2009

This year the National Meeting of the Geological Society of America (GSA) will be held in Portland, Oregon, October 18-21. Because this is a special opportunity for geology students to learn a lot and find out what geologists do, I have created an assignment related to the GSA meeting that you can do instead of writing a report on the field trip, if you want.

For this assignment, please attend a technical session – or part of a session – that has something to do with sedimentology and/or stratigraphy, and write a summary of what you learned. The topic can be related to paleoclimate or debris flows or tectonic controls on basin formation, microbial mats, provenance studies of Cordilleran terranes, carbonate petrology, modern stream sediments, clay mineralogy, or anything else that fits into this very broad category. You decide! You can attend either an oral sessions (talks) or poster session for this project.

If you choose an oral session, please sit and listen to at least 4 or 5 talks, and hang in there for a full half session if you can (it can get a little overwhelming after a while). If you choose a poster session, please attend 4 or 5 posters that are related to each other in some way. Be sure to take notes on each of the talks or posters that you are reporting on. Pay attention to both content and style. You will find that the effectiveness of talks and posters is highly variable: some will put you to sleep or be way too technical, and others will be fun and exciting because they present a new result or discovery in an accessible and understandable way.

After the meeting, use your notes to write a report that summarizes the presentations and what you learned from them. Please include the session title and number, and names of authors whose work you are summarizing. Please also include a bibliography at the end, in which you list the complete name, authors, title, date and time of each abstract. Do not include presentation titles in the main part of your report. You need to show that you attended the talks or posters, so please comment on both style and content of the presentations, and say something about what you either liked or did not like about the presentations. Do not try to paraphrase the abstracts.

Your report should be well written and well organized, about 3-5 pages long double spaced (not including bibliography). I don't mind if it is a little longer than this. Be sure to write using complete, grammatically correct sentences and well organized paragraphs. Please use a spell-check routine, and proof-read your report to look for mistakes that the spell checker can't find.

Feel free to ask me about this any time!