

Introductory Geology PowerPoint Presentation

All students taking introductory geology courses are required to present a 10 minute PowerPoint lecture during the last three sessions of the lab component of the course. The grade for the presentations will be derived as such: instructor grade (60%), attendance at all three presentation sessions (20%) and peer grade (20%). A written report based on your presentation will also be graded.

Requirements and Suggestions for a Successful Presentation

Overview Your presentation should explain a set of related facts and ideas in a way that is both interesting and understandable to your audience. Remember, your job here is to teach us all something. Assume that your audience knows little to nothing about your topic and it is your job to explain it to us in a clear and logical sequence. You may also want to include in your presentation some discussion of the civic dimensions of your topic. In other words, how does your topic impact or involve human society in political, economic, medical, religious, moral, or cultural ways? A good way to approach building a talk is to begin with a question, and then use your talk to answer that question.

Technical Each presentation should include a minimum of 10 slides and you should compose about a half page to a full page of notes for each slide within the notes section of your PowerPoint file (not visible onscreen). As addressed below, such notes will facilitate writing the accompanying research paper that is due in lab at the end of the semester. Your first slide must be a title slide with your name on it. The remaining slides should be a combination of photos and diagrams. All images should be referenced in your presentation. List the source (book or web site) in small type below the image. You may include text in your slides to outline your main talking points or to list important facts (use at least 16 pt font so your audience can read the text), but avoid placing too much text on a single slide and **DO NOT** put your notes on each slide and read from them during your presentation. **DO NOT** include slides that are all text. Proofread your slides carefully to catch spelling and grammatical errors. To deliver an effective presentation, you should prepare note cards with what you want to say outlined on the cards.

When giving your presentation, face your audience and speak loudly and clearly, making eye contact with people around the room. Use your note cards to remind yourself of what you want to say, but avoid reading from the cards. If you are using technical terms, local place names, or other unfamiliar vocabulary, find out the correct pronunciations ahead of time. It is always a good idea to practice your presentation ahead of time in front of a live audience composed of family or friends.

Written Report You must also hand in a written report, based on your PowerPoint presentation, in fulfillment of the writing requirement for distribution courses at Hofstra. You should research your topics carefully, compile facts and ideas, and derive some real information to transfer to your student colleagues. By including factual notes with your slides, as suggested above, you will easily be able to extract and edit your notes to produce a paper. A list of references, including web site references, must be included in your paper as well as in your presentation. See the following page for examples of proper reference formats.

Checklists for a Successful Presentation and Written Report

PowerPoint file delivery

1. Email file or deliver on CD or jump drive to your lab instructor **at least one day** prior to your presentation.
2. Make sure any movie files or sound files in your presentation are included in a folder with your .ppt file or they will not work.
3. DO NOT bring your presentation on your own laptop to class.

Oral Presentations Using PowerPoint

1. Presentation logically organized, accurate, and complete
2. Slides relevant and helpful in successfully teaching about your topic
3. Minimum 10 slides, including title slide
4. Slides include a combination of text, images, and diagrams – no slides with only text
5. Images referenced on the slide
6. DO NOT read from your slides
7. Speak clearly and project your voice
8. Make eye contact with your audience
9. Correct pronunciation of technical terms, place names, and unfamiliar vocabulary
10. Discussion of civic dimension of your topic (optional, but recommended)

Written Report

1. Report should be typed, double-spaced, 12 pt. Times or similar font, 1 inch margins
2. Report must include a reference list (bibliography) including web site citations in correct format (see above).
3. Minimum 5 pages in length.
4. Text must be your own wording. Do not copy and paste from web sites or other sources! This is plagiarism! Your report may be checked for plagiarism using web-based search engines. All students are expected to follow Hofstra's policy on Academic Honesty, as outlined in *The Guide to Pride*. If you are uncertain if your work is in violation of this policy, don't hesitate to ask your professor for advice and guidance.

Citation Formats

You may use any standard citation format such as MLA or APA. Minimum citation information should include authors, date, title, source (journal, newspaper, magazine title), publisher, pages. Web pages you consult must also be cited. Examples:

Levin, Harold, 2003, *The Earth Through Time*, 7th ed., John Wiley and Sons, Inc.: 22-30.

Poniewozik, James, 2000, "The Death of the Dinosaurs." *Time*, 20 Nov. 2000: 70-71.

Nancy Crane 1997. [Online]. Available: <http://www.uvm.edu/~ncrane/estyles/apa.html> [2000, August 31]. Note that the first date is the date the article was written and the date in brackets at the end of the citation is the date you visited the site.

Introductory Geology Suggested Topics

The Geology faculty suggests that you chose a topic that you are interested in – for example the geology of a place you have visited or a geological or meteorological event that you have personal experience with. Other possible suggestions are listed below:

Famous Hurricanes

1938 “Long Island Express”; 2004 season: Charley, Frances, Ivan (magically reappearing as a hurricane *after* devolving to a tropical depression); Andrew, Gloria; Pacific Ocean Typhoons; Indian Ocean Cyclones; How Hurricanes Form; Hurricanes and the North Atlantic Oscillation; Hurricanes and El Nino; Hurricane/Earthquake Prediction and Preparedness; etc.

Famous Earthquakes

1906 San Francisco; 1811-12 New Madrid; 1964 Alaska; 1884 New York, NY; 1999 Northridge, CA; 1995 Kobe, Japan; 1999 Izmit, Turkey, 1886 Charleston, SC; 1960 Chile; 1986 Loma Prieta, CA; 1976 Tangshan, China; 1997 Iran; 1990 Philippines; San Andreas fault; Ramapo fault; Earthquake Prediction and Preparedness; etc.

Igneous Geology - Some Famous Volcanic Eruptions

1886 Krakatoa; 1960 Surtsey, Iceland; 1980 Mt. St. Helens; 1981 El Chichon, Mexico; 1942-43 Paricutin, Mexico; 1993 Pinatubo; 1991 Mt. Unzen, Japan; 1912 Mt. Lassen, CA; 1968 Cerro Negro, Nicaragua; 1985 Nevado del Ruiz, Colombia, etc.

Igneous Forms and Features

Palisades Intrusive Sheet, NJ; Columbia River Basalts, WA and OR; Deccan Traps, India; Iceland; Hawaii; Mt. Fuji, Japan; Shiprock, NM; Sierra Nevada batholith; Henry Mountains, UT; Crater Lake, OR (Mt. Mazama); Yellowstone Caldera, WY; Mono Craters, CA; etc.

Regional Geology - Geology of Long Island

Coastal features; LI beach formation; Montauk Point; Fire Island; Hither Hills State Park; LI hydrology; LI glaciation; etc.

Geology of NYC and Vicinity

Bear Mountain; Bedrock Geology of NYC; Central Park; Prospect Park; Riverside Park; Glacial Geology; NYC Water Tunnels; Hudson River; Palisades; Influence of Geology on Engineering Construction; Hudson Submarine Canyon; 125th Street “Manhattanville” fault; etc.

Climate and Oceanography

Longshore drift on Long Island’s Barrier Beaches; Impact of Hurricanes on Long Island (or any other geographical location of interest); Why Glacial Periods Happen; How El Nino works; Trends in Hurricane Intensity and Frequency Over the Last 50 Years; Black Smokers and Sulphur-based Life Forms; Location of the World’s Deserts; The Greenhouse Effect and Global Warming; The Dust Bowl; Recent Droughts in the NY area; Drought and Decline of Ancient Civilizations; Climate Change and Human Evolution

Planetary Geology

Comparative Planetology (Mars vs. Earth; Earth's Moon vs. Mercury, etc.); Crater Morphology; History of Space Travel; Lunar Missions; Lunar vs. Martian, vs. Venusian vs. Mercurian Impact Craters; Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo Missions; Mineralogy and Origin of Meteorites; Mineralogy of the Moon; Multi-ringed Basins; Planetary Orbits; Planetary Ring Systems; Post-WWII Rocketry; Russian Space Missions; Space Exploration - Mariner, Pioneer, Voyager, Mars Global Surveyor, Galileo, Deep Impact, Mars Express, Future Missions, etc.; Terrestrial Impact Craters (Panther Mtn., Meteor Crater, etc.); WW-II Rocketry.

Places

Geology of your favorite vacation spot, National Park, any Caribbean Island

Miscellaneous

Dinosaur Extinction Theories
Evaluation of Precious Stones
Geological Processes that Create Gemstones
Geologists, Rocks, and Forensic Science
History of Geology
History of the Geological Timescale
Lake Missoula Flood
Narrows Flood
Newspaper Geo-articles
Origin and Distribution of Diamonds
Use of Rocks as Industrial Materials

Sources of Information

<http://www.geology.com>
<http://www.nasa.gov>
<http://www.jpl.nasa.gov>
<http://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov>
Newspaper Geo-articles
Science or Nature or Geophysical Research Letters articles