

Research Paper and Oral Presentation

Assignment

Pose a research question that interests you related to the broad topic of paleoclimatology and choose both a type of paleoclimate archive and a set of methods that could be used to help answer it. Your paper should include sections on developing your research questions and hypotheses, the nuances of the particular archive, and the pros and cons of your methodological approach. The purpose of this exercise is for you to explore an area of interest, develop an in depth understanding of paleoclimate archives, and become fluent in the use of a set of methods used to address paleoclimate questions.

Oral Presentation

We will do this backwards as I have found that sometimes giving a short talk will help you organize your thoughts for writing your paper, but this means you have to get started now. The presentations will be done in the style of the Geological Society of America (GSA) and American Geophysical Union (AGU) national meetings for geologists. Time limits will be strictly enforced as they are at the meetings with 12 minute talks (after 10 minutes you are warned and you have 2 minutes to summarize) and 3 minutes for questions. Organize your talk along the following lines:

- 1) Tell the audience what your talk is about and where you aim to take them.
- 2) Introduce the subject by posing your research question in the context of what is already known.
- 3) Describe the paleoclimate archive and methods in sufficient detail. Which means, show us that you read and understand what the researchers did, where they did it, why they did it and what it means to the science (i.e. why should people care).
- 4) Present the results, focusing on no more than three key ideas. Bring each idea to closure.

Important Dates

Research topic due Fri Jan 16
Reference list (25 or more) due Fri Jan 23
Powerpoint draft of talk due Mon Feb 2
Graduate student presentations Wed Feb 11 and Fri Feb 13
Peer review draft of paper due Fri Mar 27
Peer review of fellow students paper due Wed Apr 1
Final paper due Friday Apr 10

Grading of Oral Presentations

Speaker name _____

Paper topic _____

Start time: _____

Finish time: _____

Graded on a scale from 1 to 5 (5 = best):

- 1) Talk does not exceed allotted time of 12 minutes
- 2) A well introduced, clear, concise topic with the objective clearly stated
- 3) Implications for the discipline or application are clearly stated
- 4) Overheads/slides are clearly legible and free from unnecessary detail
- 5) Talk presented in a clear voice, audible for all, free from vocal faults
- 6) Speaker enthusiastic about the subject
- 7) Answers to questions demonstrate an understanding of the topic and research
- 8) Talk brought to closure successfully (not left hanging or asking so what?)

Total

Comments and unanswered questions:

Grading of Peer-Reviewed Draft

Authors Name _____

Reviewers Name _____

Paper topic

Graded on a scale from 1 to 5 (5 = best):

- 1) A well organized paper
- 2) A well introduced, clear, concise research question with the objective clearly started
- 3) Implications for the discipline or application are clearly stated
- 4) Figures and tables are clear and free from unnecessary detail
- 5) Figure captions are descriptive and help the reader understand the paper by illustrating important points
- 6) Do any points need clarification?
- 7) Are the arguments well formed and the conclusions well supported?
- 8) The manuscript brought to closure successfully (not left hanging or asking so what?)

Total

Comments and unanswered questions: