

Research Paper Assessment Sheet
(First-Year Seminar, Wilson Section)

Student: _____

Date: _____

Organization of paper:

Title (*clear, concise, informative*): 1 2 3 4 (circle one)

Abstract (*effective summary of the paper's thesis, evidence and conclusions*): 1 2 3 4

Introduction (*provides context and purpose for the paper*): 1 2 3 4

Summary (*the paper's primary points are briefly restated*): 1 2 3 4

Content of paper:

Importance and interest of the topic is clear: 1 2 3 4

Useful new insights (*additional ideas the writer introduces*): 1 2 3 4

Citation of sources (*all borrowed ideas and words adequately cited*): 1 2 3 4

Use of figures (*clear illustrations which help the reader understand the material*): 1 2 3 4

Logical flow (*it is easy to follow the points of the paper through the prose*): 1 2 3 4

Topic adequately covered: 1 2 3 4

Format and Other Issues:

Proper format followed (*meets the requirements outlined in our style guide*): 1 2 3 4

Spelling & Grammar (*proper punctuation, spelling, sentence structure, etc.*): 1 2 3 4

(Additional comments are made on the paper itself. Note that categories are weighted by point numbers.)

TOTAL: _____ (48 points is the highest possible)

LETTER GRADE: _____

(The letter grade is not a direct result of the numerical total; it also includes effective use of content and rhetoric.)

Rubric scoring key:

- 4 Virtually no problems in this area.
- 3 Some problems, but they do not detract from the readability of the text.
- 2 A sufficient number of problems so that the reader has difficulty understanding the writer.
- 1 So many problems that the readability of the text is severely undermined.

Examples of citation styles from the Geology Department Writing Webpage (<http://ismanual.voices.wooster.edu/>)

Paper in a Government or University Serial Publication --

Hay, R.L., 1963, Stratigraphy and zeolitic diagenesis of the John Day Formation of Oregon: University of California Publications in Geological Sciences, v. 42, p. 199–262.

Paper in a Multiauthor Volume --

Kane, J.S., and Neuzil, S.G., 1993, Geochemical and analytical implications of extensive sulfur retention in ash from Indonesian peats, *in* Cobb, J.C., and Cecil, C.B., eds., Modern and ancient coal-forming environments: Geological Society of America Special Paper 286, p. 97–106.

Book --

Twiss, R.J., and Moores, E.M., 1992, Structural geology: New York, W. H. Freeman and Company, 532 p.

Vogt, P., and Tucholke, B., editors, 1986, The western North Atlantic region: Boulder, Colorado, Geological Society of America, Geology of North America, v. M, 696 p.

Journal or Magazine --

Doglioni, C., 1994, Foredeeps versus subduction zones: *Geology*, v. 22, p. 271–274.

Walter, L.M., Bischof, S.A., Patterson, W.P., and Lyons, T.L., 1993, Dissolution and recrystallization in modern shelf carbonates: Evidence from pore water and solid phase chemistry: *Royal Society of London Philosophical Transactions*, ser. A, v. 344, p. 27–36.

Webpages (our style) --

National Geophysical Data Center, 2005, NOAA's National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC) Homepage [WWW document]. URL: <http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/>. Accessed November 6, 2015.

Webpages are awkward in a paper, so always use a printed source as an alternative when possible. If the page has a clear author, list him or her instead of the organization. The title of the page is usually that which is printed at the top of the web document. The date after the author is the year of the last update to the webpage or the year you accessed it, whichever is earlier. Webpages are ephemeral sources, so most journals do not accept them as references in a paper.