

Option 3: Volcano Research Paper

Your Research Paper is due on the day of Finals – June 7th or June 8th

Assignment Summary: You are a travel writer, completing an essay describing a volcano attraction. Your job is to report on this volcano and convince us that this volcano is spectacular.

Purpose: Your purpose is both persuasive and informative. Your job is to attract the reader to the volcano.

Writer's Role: You are a free-lance writer trying to get your paper published in a magazine.

Audience: You will be writing for scientifically minded readers who like to travel.

Form: Your research paper will be written as a multi-paragraph expository essay. Your research paper should be well-organized and cover all of the points from the Guiding Questions. The paper needs to include a title page as well as a bibliography. An expository essay is logical, direct, informative and should be written with facts not with opinion.

Content: All information presented is accurate, complete, and current.

Mechanics: Research paper is edited for spelling, punctuation, and grammar.

Form: Your research paper should have:

- A title page with your name, due date, and your volcano's name. You should also include a picture.
- An introduction paragraph, three or more body paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph.
- All of the information from the guiding questions is answered.
- An attached bibliography.
- 2-4 pictures to supplement the essay.

You will begin by researching your volcano using the Guiding Questions. Take notes on notecards and identify your sources. Make sure to write your notes in your own words. **DO NOT COPY!**

Before writing, create a t-chart or outline to organize thoughts.

Consider your audience, create an interesting introduction, and form coherent body paragraphs.

Another suggestion is to participate in peer editing and revising. Use the attached rubric to revise and perfect your paper for maximum fluency and appropriateness.

On the day of the final, please turn in a hard copy of your research paper and your notecards. Make sure your name is on each part.

Volcano Research Paper Rubric

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|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ideas | The topic is introduced clearly. It is developed and supported with relevant facts and concrete details. If included, quotations are relevant, accurate, and insightful. Carefully selected ideas completely answer the reader's main questions. | The topic is introduced well. Almost all the facts and details support the topic well. If included, quotations are relevant and accurate. Almost all the reader's main questions are answered. | The topic is introduced adequately. Some facts, details and quotations (if included) support the topic adequately. The reader's main questions are frequently answered. | The topic is introduced. Facts, details, and quotations (if included) do not develop and support the topic effectively. A few of the reader's questions are answered. |
| Organization | The ideas, concepts, and information are organized into a strong introduction, body, and conclusion. Varied appropriate and unique transitions connect and clarify relationships among ideas. | The ideas, concepts and information are organized into an introduction, body and conclusion. Most transitions are appropriate and helpful. | The ideas, concepts, and information are organized into an introduction, body, and conclusion. More or better transitions may be needed. | An introduction, body and conclusion are present. Some transitions may be inappropriate or incorrect. |
| Voice | The writer's voice is appropriate for the purpose and audience. The tone is informative, respectful and consistent. | The writer's voice is appropriate for the purpose and audience most of the time. The tone is almost always informative and respectful. | The writer's voice is mostly appropriate for the purpose and audience. The tone is mostly informative and respectful, but may be too informal in some places. | The writer's voice is not very appropriate for the purpose or audience. The tone is inconsistent. |
| Word Choice | The language is exact and concise. Domain-specific vocabulary is used correctly and explained, as needed. Nouns and verbs are clear and precise, supported by a few carefully selected modifiers. | Most of the language is exact and concise. Domain-specific vocabulary is used correctly and usually explained, as needed. Most nouns and verbs are clear and precise. Most modifiers are carefully selected | Some of the language is exact, but some is too general or vague. Some domain-specific vocabulary is used but not explained. Some nouns and verbs are weak, requiring too much help from modifiers. Modifiers are satisfactory. | Some language is confusing. Domain-specific vocabulary may be used incorrectly. Nouns and verbs lack clarity and precision. Too many or too few modifiers are used, and many of these are weak. |
| Sentence Fluency | The sentences vary greatly in length and structure, adding style and interest. Almost all sentences begin differently. The text flows smoothly and is effortlessly read aloud with inflection. | Most of the sentences vary in their beginnings, lengths, and structures. Several add style or interest. Most of the text flows smoothly and is easy to read aloud with inflection. | Sentence length and structure vary somewhat, with some sentences adding style or interest. Some sentence beginnings are repeated. Parts of the text flow smoothly. The paper can be read aloud with inflection. | In many places, the writing does not flow smoothly because sentences are the same length or begin the same way. The paper is difficult to read aloud with inflection. |
| Conventions | The text has been carefully edited. Grammar, usage and mechanics are correct. | The text contains one or two minor errors, but the meaning remains clear | The text contains some minor errors that may distract the reader, but meaning remains clear. | Many errors are repeated. Line-by-line editing in specific places is needed. The errors interfere with meaning in some places. |
| Bibliography | The bibliography, submitted to EasyBib.com, includes four or more different sources. | The bibliography, submitted to EasyBib.com, includes three sources. | The bibliography, submitted to EasyBib.com, includes two sources. | The bibliography, submitted to EasyBib.com, includes only one source. |
| Notecards | There are a minimum of nine notecards that are formatted according to the directions. They are written in the writer's own words. | There are a minimum of nine notecards that are mostly formatted according to the directions. They are written in the writer's own words. | There are a minimum of nine notecards. Some of the notes have been copied directly from the source. | There are some notecards. The notes have been copied from the source. |