

EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY: Chicago Geology in the News

Extra credit can be earned for a maximum of two **current news articles**, related to the topic of this course: *Geology of Chicago*. By examining the course syllabus, you will see a wide range of topics can qualify – remember to choose an article that is ***clearly related both to geology and to Chicago**** !!

A short writing assignment must accompany the article, as described below.

To receive credit for an article, you must:

1. Turn in the article within 2 weeks of its publication date. With this restriction, articles may be turned in any time during the semester, **but each of the two chances to submit has an “expiration date” (final due date)**, as follows:
 - first opportunity to submit an article expires on **7 October**. (date of Exam 1);
 - second chance to submit an article must be not later than **13 November**. (date of Exam 2).
2. Clip the article, **including the source** (both *date and title* of the publication). If source is an online newspaper, be certain that it was *published*, not just ‘found and printed’ within 2 weeks of submitting.
3. Attach the article to the back of a brief (not more than one page) type-written summary, which must include **two paragraphs**:
 - ▶ In the first paragraph, summarize the content of the article in your own words.
 - ▶ In a second paragraph, explain the importance of the geologic issue/ event/ information in the Chicago region. That is, depending on the nature of the news item, briefly but specifically explain how (a) the study of geology helps to understand and/or solve the particular problem or issue **OR** (b) the geologic feature/ process/ issue affects how decisions are made about human activities, **OR** (c) the geologic feature/ process/ issue affects “quality of life” in the Chicago area.
 - ▶ At the top of the page, include ***your name; date submitted; course & section number***
 - ▶ the entire write-up (two paragraphs) must be no more than one page length, with a ***font size not smaller than 12***. (Note that line spacing is *not specified*: whether you single-space/double/ or in between, the entire write-up must fit on a single page.)
 - ▶ Expect *zero credit* for work submitted that is substantially in words that were written by someone else. Claiming credit for the words of another is *plagiarism*; simply copying another’s words also does nothing to enhance your *understanding* of material (which is, in fact, the reason for doing the work).
4. Articles with write-ups that meet these criteria can earn a maximum of 1.5% of the total course grade (for a possible total extra credit of 3%).

*note: for this assignment, “Chicago” includes the city itself and the collar counties – the “Chicago region.” If you are unsure as to whether an article meets the criteria, check with the instructor **before** starting to write your paper.