

Location Report 2

Report on local climate

Purpose

Demonstrate your understanding of atmospheric features and processes.

Overview

The character of a place is determined in large part by its climate. You will report on the climate of your chosen location in depth.

Graded Components

Topic Draft: Present the necessary, correct information.

Topic Draft Feedback: Read your group mates' topic drafts and suggest improvements.

Writing Draft: Fine-tune organization and writing.

Writing Draft Feedback: Read your group mates' writing drafts and suggest improvements.

Written Report: Describe the location's climate and a notable historic weather event there.

Oral Presentation: Describe the climate and event to your classmates.

Dates and Deadlines

Oct 25	Project introduced
Nov 2	Topic Drafts due
Nov 4	Topic Draft review
Nov 8	Writing Drafts due
Nov 10	Writing Draft review
Nov 12	Written reports due
Nov 16	Oral presentations

Scoring

The project is worth 60 points in total.

Topic Draft (5 points)

Show your progress toward a finished product.

+2	Contains all sections (location geography, weather data, weather event, bibliography).
+2	Copies of the draft are provided for instructor and group members.
+1	Draft is clear and legible.

Feedback on Topic Drafts (3 points)

Provide feedback on your group mates' topic drafts. Identify errors and omissions, and offer constructive suggestions for improving the content and its presentation. It is not necessary to address specific grammar or usage issues—just content here. Provide copies of your feedback to your classmate and instructor.

The feedback report you submit to me contains separate write-ups for each draft that you evaluate. It does not need to be long or formal. It need only be a list of the specific problems you found and your specific suggestions to correct them.

+1	Identifies all errors and omissions of content.
+1	Offers constructive suggestions for all problems identified.
+1	Provide copies to reports' authors.

Since you will provide feedback on several group members' reports, the score you receive for this item will be average of their scores.

Writing Draft (5 points)

Show your progress toward a finished product.

+2	Contains all sections (location geography, weather data, weather event, bibliography).
+2	Copies of the draft are provided for instructor and group members.
+1	Draft is clear and legible.

Although this rubric is the same as for the topic draft, the content should all be settled. Here you will be perfecting format, grammar, and phrasing.

Feedback on Writing Drafts (2 points)

Show up, discuss your classmates' drafts, and get the two points.

Written Report (40 points total)

Location data (5 points)

Specify the latitude, longitude, and elevation of your location. Identify the highest angle of the Sun in the sky from the location at the December solstice and at the June solstice.

+2	Reports correct latitude and longitude.
+1	Reports correct elevation (or range, if an area of high relief).
+1	Reports correct highest sun angles for the specified dates.
+1	Presentation of all data is clear and accessible.

Geographic effects (5 points)

Identify the local geographic features that affect the region's climate. Possible influences include the elevation, bodies of water, and mountain ranges. Identify the products of the nearest agricultural land.

+3	Identifies and describes the local land forms and water bodies.
+1	Describes the effect of the geography on the climate.
+1	Identifies major agricultural uses of the nearby land.

Monthly weather data (5 points)

Display (graphs would be especially nice) monthly average precipitation and average high and low temperatures. If there are any specific prominent features of the climate, such as prevailing winds or temperature extremes, identify those as well.

+2	Reports correct average monthly temperatures and ranges.
+1	Reports correct average monthly precipitation and ranges.
+1	Describes special features of the location's climate.
+1	Presentation of all data is clear and accessible.

Climate class (10 points)

State the Köppen class symbol for the region. Name and describe the phrase description. Explain how the geographic features produce the region's climate.

+3	Correctly identifies the Köppen class symbol.
+2	Provides the phrase description of the Köppen class.
+3	Explicitly matches the characteristics of the region's climate to the features of its Köppen class.
+2	Explains how the geographic features of the region produce its climate.

Weather event (10 points)

Report on a notable weather event at your location. Present the history of the event, including its dates and full geographic extent. Include specific details, such as rainfall, temperature, and winds, as appropriate to the situation. Explain how the event originated, developed, and ended.

Identify the type of event (tropical cyclone, high-pressure anticyclone, mid-latitude cyclone, specific type of thunderstorm, etc.). Depending on the nature of the event, you may need to

describe the progress of fronts, high and low pressure centers, interactions of air layers, and cyclonic systems.

Describe the event's effect on human life, structures, and institutions. Was property damaged? Were natural resources affected? Were any long-term policies implemented or changed in addition to the immediate response?

+2	Outlines the progress of the event, from beginning to end.
+1	Progress includes specific beginning and ending dates.
+2	Correctly identifies the type of weather system.
+2	Details applicable meteorological occurrences.
+2	Describes economic and societal impacts.
+1	Describes human response to the event.

Annotated bibliography (5 points)

This is a record of all the sources from which you obtained the information in your report. It contains:

- standard look-up information (author, publisher, date), following a consistent, adequate format;
- a brief summary of the topic, contents and creator; and
- a description of how useful the source was for gathering the information needed for the report.

+1	Cites at least two sources
+1	Citations are complete.
+1	Contents of all sources are adequately summarized.
+1	Organization, accessibility, and utility of all sources are evaluated.
+1	Descriptions and evaluations are thorough, crisp, and well-supported.

Oral Presentation (5 points)

Identify the geographic setting and the Köppen climate type. Describe the specific weather event.

Your presentation shall be understandable and factually correct. Speak audibly and with animation, and maintain eye contact with your audience.

+1	Identifies and describes prominent local land forms.
+1	Identifies and summarizes the climate type.
+2	Recounts the specific weather event.
+1	Presentation is understandable, organized, and concise.