

Research Paper Assignment: Careers in Earth Science

You will write a five-paragraph research paper about a career in Earth Science. The goal is to learn about a real-world career that uses Earth Science to solve problems and benefit people and the planet.

Requirements:

- MLA style, typed, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font
- 1-inch margins
- Include a creative title centered at the top of the first page (no bold, underline, or italics)
- Heading on the top left: your name, instructor name, course, and date
- Cite at least **three reliable sources** in a **Works Cited** section at the end
- Use **in-text citations** when you include specific facts, statistics, or quotes

Paragraph Breakdown

Paragraph 1 – Introduction

- Introduce the career you chose.
- Explain what Earth Science is and how this career fits into that field.
- Share why you picked this career or what interests you about it.
- End with a clear thesis statement that outlines what your paper will discuss.
Example: “This paper will explain what a meteorologist does, the history of weather science, a famous meteorologist, and how this career helps people.”

Paragraph 2 – Career and Field of Study

- Describe what someone in this career does.
- Explain what part of Earth Science it focuses on (geology, astronomy, meteorology, etc.).
- List the tools or technology used in this job.
- Describe where someone in this job might work (indoors, outdoors, in space, on the ocean, etc.).
- Explain why this job is important.

Paragraph 3 – History and Famous Person

- Provide a brief history of the career. When did it begin? What discoveries or events helped it grow?
- Introduce a famous person in this field.

- Explain what they discovered or contributed.
- Describe why they are important to this field of Earth Science.

Paragraph 4 – Contributions to Humanity

- Explain how this career helps people or the planet.
- Give specific examples of how this job benefits society.
- Explain why this career continues to matter in today's world.
- Include your thoughts on why this career makes a difference.

Paragraph 5 – Conclusion

- Restate your thesis using different words.
- Summarize the main points of your paper.
- Reflect on what you learned or what surprised you.
- End with a closing thought about how this career connects to your interests or goals.

Final Checklist:

- ☐ Five well-written paragraphs
- ☐ Title and your name at the top
- ☐ Typed (12-point font, double-spaced)
- ☐ Checked for spelling, punctuation, and grammar
- ☐ Include a properly formatted **Works Cited** page with at least 3 sources cited.
- ☐ All sources must be credible (books, scientific websites, educational articles, etc.).
- ☐ Plagiarism will result in a failing grade. Use your own words and cite all sources properly.

First Draft Due Date: _____

Final Draft Due Date: _____

Career Research Paper Rubric

Category	0 Points	1 Point	2 Points	3 Points	4 Points	5 Points
Clear Topic & Focus	No recognizable topic or focus.	Mostly off-topic; little connection to main idea.	Topic unclear or shifts often; lacks central focus.	Topic present but not well-defined; some drifting.	Topic clear; mostly stays focused.	Topic clear, well-defined, and fully focused throughout.
Organization	No structure.	Disorganized; hard to follow; major parts missing.	Weak structure; missing one major section.	Basic structure but ideas may be choppy or out of order.	All major parts present; flow mostly logical.	Strong intro, body, conclusion; ideas flow clearly and logically.
Supporting Details	No supporting details.	Minimal or incorrect details.	Very few or vague details.	Some details but not fully developed.	Good supporting details with minor gaps.	Strong, accurate facts and examples clearly support topic.
Neatness & Grammar	Illegible or not in complete sentences.	Very messy or many errors; hard to read.	Frequent errors; distract from writing.	Some errors; readability occasionally affected.	Mostly neat; few errors.	Very neat; almost no errors.
Effort & Completion	No attempt made or not submitted.	Very little effort; most requirements missing.	Low effort; several parts missing.	Adequate effort; some parts incomplete.	Good effort; one small requirement missing.	Full effort; all instructions followed and requirements completed.

Total Score: ____ / 25

Presentation Trifold Board Guidelines

You will create a **trifold board** to share the main points from your research paper visually. The board should be neat, organized, and easy to read from a distance.

Middle Panel (Center Section):

- Title of the Career
- Your Name
- Large, clear image related to the career in action
- Interesting facts related to this career

Left Panel:

- What This Career Does
 - Use bullet points or short paragraph
 - Include daily tasks and tools used

Right Panel:

- Famous Scientist or Historical Example
 - Name and what they are known for
- How This Career Helps the World
 - Environmental or social impact

Optional Enhancements (Extra Credit Considered):

- Graphs, charts, or labeled diagrams
- Real-life objects or models
- Bible verse related to stewardship or creation care

Presentation Expectations

You will give a **4–5 minute presentation** using your trifold board to support what you share.

Tips for a Great Presentation:

- Speak clearly and at a steady pace
- Make eye contact with your audience
- Do not read directly from your board or paper—summarize
- Point to visuals on your board as you talk
- Practice at home to stay within your time limit

Career Research Presentation Rubric

Category	0 Points	1 Point	2 Points	3 Points	4 Points	5 Points
Clarity & Speaking	Does not present.	Cannot be heard or understood from back of the classroom.	Often speaks too quietly or unclearly.	Usually understandable but sometimes too quiet or unclear.	Speaks clearly and loudly with only minor issues.	Speaks clearly and loudly enough throughout the presentation.
Organization	Does not present.	Presentation has no clear organization.	Ideas are difficult to follow, and major sections are missing.	Has some organization, but the beginning, middle, or end may be unclear.	Has a clear structure with only minor gaps or confusing transitions.	Presentation has a clear beginning, middle, and end.
Visual Aid	No trifold poster is provided.	Poster is incomplete, difficult to read, or does not support the research paper.	Somewhat messy, difficult to read across the room, or provides limited support.	Supports the research paper but may have areas that are cluttered or difficult to read.	Neat, supports the research paper, and is mostly easy to read across the room.	Neat, easy to read from across the room, and clearly supports the research paper.
Engagement	Does not present.	Avoids eye contact and does not explain ideas.	Makes little eye contact and appears unsure when explaining ideas.	Makes some eye contact and explains some ideas confidently.	Frequently makes eye contact and explains most ideas confidently.	Consistently makes eye contact and explains ideas confidently throughout the presentation.
Effort & Preparation	Does not present.	Unprepared, shows little effort, and does not stay on topic.	Shows limited preparation and effort and frequently goes off topic.	Shows some preparation and effort but occasionally goes off topic.	Well-prepared, shows good effort, and mostly stays on topic.	Well-prepared, shows strong effort, and stays on topic throughout the presentation.

Total Score: ____ / 25