

## Two Short Writing Assignments

**Due dates:** February 12 in discussion section and  
February 26 in discussion section

**Assignment:** These are two identical assignments. For each assignment:

(1) Choose a

(a) **Report** or **Research Article** published in the journal *Science*

(<http://www.sciencemag.org/magazine.dtl>),

(b) a **Letter** or **Article** published in the journal *Nature*

(<http://www.nature.com/nature/index.html>),

**or**

(c) an **Article** published in the journal *Geology*

(<http://www.gsjournals.org/perlserv/?request=index-html&issn=0091-7613>).

The article should be published in the year 2000 or after. It should be related to the earth sciences and involve geochemistry.

(2) Write a one to two page, single-spaced summary of the article that you have chosen. The title of your summary should be: “A Summary of \_\_\_\_\_”, where the blank will contain the full citation of the article that you summarize, in the format specified in discussion. In your paper, you should (a) summarize the main points of your chosen article and (b) the basis (new data, new analysis of old data, new arguments) for their conclusions. Your summary should be two or more paragraphs.

(3) Append a copy of the article you chose to your summary and hand it in.

The aims of these two assignments are to allow you to explore the geochemistry/geology literature, find topics of interest, and learn to extract and write about the main points of a research article. We hope that these exercises will help you in choosing a term paper topic and in writing your term paper.