

Term paper assignment
Geo 2303W: Geochemical Principles
Spring 2008

As part of this course, you are required to write a 15-page research paper.

This paper will be on a topic of your choice within the broad field of geochemistry.

The three main goals of this assignment are to provide you with opportunities to:

- (1) make scientific arguments in written form (i.e. present data, interpret data, and reach conclusions based upon the data),
- (2) delve more deeply into an aspect of geochemistry that particularly interests you, and
- (3) introduce yourself to the scientific research literature.

The first step is to choose a topic. A list of possible topics is included in this handout. You may choose one of these or another topic of your choice (but within the realm of geochemistry). You then need to fine-tune your topic. Your text book, library research, the instructor, and the TA are all resources that you may use to fine-tune your topic.

Due on Wednesday March 5:

- (1) your topic and
- (2) a few sentences outlining your topic.

It would be useful to have references that you will draw upon noted as well, although this is not a requirement. You will receive written comments and suggestions on your topic.

Due on Wednesday, April 9:

The next step is to prepare a 5 to 10-page (**double-spaced, 11 or 12 point Times or Times New Roman**) first draft. You will need to start at the library by identifying and reading additional research articles. **Your draft should be organized as a scientific research article, with the following features in sequence: title and authorship, abstract, introduction, presentation of data and discussion, conclusions, and references.** A portion of the discussion in late March/early April will be devoted to helping you prepare this draft.

You will receive written comments and suggestions on your draft, which you may use as a guide in preparing the final version due on **Wednesday, April 30**. Turn in both the draft with the written comments AND the final version.