

For the course project/paper a topic in event stratigraphy, for example, Namurian and Westphalian coal tonsteins and K-bentonites in the Upper Silesian Basin, Czech Republic (see Martinec, 2002), or the Devonian-Carboniferous boundary event (see Kumpan et al., 2019, 2021), could be discussed. You have to pick a topic that has suitable references, as just one source is not acceptable, and be aware that the more specific and focused the topic the easier it will be to discuss.

The format of the journal “Geobios” published by Elsevier will be followed in regard to Table, Figure, Subheadings, and Reference format. Every journal has specific formats. Guidelines can be found here: <https://www.elsevier.com/journals/geobios/0016-6995/guide-for-authors> Use the attached checklist to assure all components of the paper are completed (**attach as cover sheet to paper upon submission**). Have your proof reader sign and date, complete checklist and then sign and date. Limit text to between 5 and 10 double spaced pages. Use figures and tables as needed, which can be placed at the end of the paper (not formatted within the text). References as cited as needed. Examples of papers from my students are available, but note that they used the format of the journal “Geology” which is slightly different from “Geobios.”

Suggested initial sources:

GEOREF or other search engine

Important dates and deadlines:

01 November – submission of topic, outline, and at least five references for topic.

29 November – submission of paper – review the cover sheet, as you need to have a fellow student review your paper before submission.

13 December – resubmission of paper – this must incorporate, if necessary, comments from my review of your initial submission.

Kumpan, T., Kalvoda, J., Bábek, O., Grygar, T.M., and Fryda, J., 2021. The Devonian-Carboniferous boundary in the Moravian karst (Czech Republic). *Palaeobiodiversity and Palaeoenvironments* 101:473-485.

Kumpan, T., Kalvoda, J., Holá, M., Bábek, O., and Kanicky, V., 2019. Tracing paleoredox conditions across the Devonian-Carboniferous boundary event: A case study from carbonate-dominated settings of Belgium, the Czech Republic, and northern France. *Sedimentary Geology* 380:143-157.

Martinec, P., 2002. Namurian and Westphalian coal tonsteins and K-bentonites in the Upper Silesian Basin, Czech Republic; major elements, trace elements chemistry and magmatic affinities. *Memoir Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists*, 19:910-923.

Scientific Paper Check List

Title/Intro./Main Body/Refs.

- ___ Title
- ___ Name, date, and address
- ___ Abstract
- ___ Introduction
- (___ Method/Results) – as you may not be collecting data this section may not be necessary
- ___ Discussion
 - ___ appropriate subheadings in discussion
 - ___ figures and tables are captioned
 - ___ figs and tables are referenced in text
- ___ Summary/Conclusions
 - ___ no new information in summary
- ___ References
 - ___ proper format
 - ___ all references are cited in text
 - ___ all cited references are listed

Style

- ___ third person
- ___ consistent tense (ideally past)
- ___ quotations used only where actual wording is important

General

- ___ pages numbered
- ___ spelling checked
- ___ grammar checked
- ___ double or 1 1/2 spaced
- ___ 2.5 cm (1") margins
- ___ paper proofed
- ___ dark copy
- ___ "last minute" corrections in ink

Name/signature of proof reader _____
_____ date: _____

Name/Date: _____
(use as cover sheet after completing and checking above list)

Assessment score:

- information /4
- evaluation /4
- synthesis /4
- well organized argument /4

In addition, some common grammatical and structure guidelines should be followed in scientific writing:

- 1a) write in third person, for the most part in past tense (e.g., do not use I, me, we, you)
 - a) be sure tense stays the same in a sentence
- 2) use direct phrasing
- 3a) place the subject near the beginning of the sentence
 - a) too many clauses will often reduce the clarity of a sentence
- 4) do not use clauses or sentences that do not convey an idea or information
- 5) do not use a sentence to introduce a table or figure - a table or figure is never the subject
- 6) do not use quotes unless the actual wording is important, paraphrase and reference
- 7) do not cite the same source multiple times in a paragraph
- 8) do not give possessive to an inanimate object (e.g., "the Rochester Shale's fossils" should read "fossils of the Rochester Shale").

Check guide to authors or articles in "Geobios" or other Elsevier publications if you are in doubt

<https://www.elsevier.com/journals/geobios/0016-6995/guide-for-authors>

The parts of a scientific paper are:

Title - clear indication of paper content

Author, Address

Abstract - synopsis of paper

Introduction - back ground information and purpose (what question are you addressing/answering)

Methods, Results - describe research method and data

Discussion - analysis of topic, relevance of other studies

Conclusion/Summary - briefs statement of paper content and importance

References - list of published material cited in text

The introduction and discussion may utilize subheadings to clarify topics of discussion in the paper.

Use figures and tables where appropriate. Pay attention to format: figure captions are referenced in the text and placed beneath the figure; table captions go above the information. Be consistent in usage throughout the paper.

Papers will be **typed** (double or space-and-a-half). Figures, tables, and the captions can go at the end of the paper so you do not have to constantly reformat.

Late papers will have 5 pts deducted from the score for each day past due date.

Grade Scheme

Topic and initial references approved	_____ (5)
Title (a clear indication of the topic including age and geographic location)	_____ (5)
Abstract (synopsis of paper)	_____ (5)
Introduction	_____ (10)
Methods/Results	_____ (10)
Discussion	_____ (30)
Conclusion/Summary	_____ (5)
Figures/Tables (clear, informative, relevant, if not original, properly cited, properly captioned)	_____ (10)
References (comprehensive, current, proper format)	_____ (10)
Grammar/Spelling/Name/Date/ Pages numbered	_____ (5)
Paper adequately proofed	_____ (5)
Total	_____

Instructor Comments: