

Final Project Photo Essay

“The Physical Geography of My Community”

The physical geography discussed in class and in your text is not only found in exotic locations, but in our own immediate environment. Being able to recognize physical processes in the landscape is an important objective in this course. The purpose of this assignment is for you to practice your skills of geographic observation within your own community by applying concepts and topics covered in class and the text to where you live, whether that is Irvine, California or Beijing, China. Not all physical processes lend themselves to photography, for example wind or earthquakes. You will need to be creative – showing the effects of wind or earthquake preparedness is acceptable.

Remember – the purpose of your photo essay is to illustrate the unique physical features and processes in your neighborhood. In other words, “backyard” science. Photos from your trip to Hawaii last year are unacceptable.

Project Requirements:

Each research topic will include **one unique photo** that illustrates the process specific to Orange County

- The photos should be distinctly different and represent the topic in the outline
- Photos are limited to Orange County and must be taken during the current semester.

Each photo will have a typed description and paragraph researching and analyzing the topic in the photo (see example).

- Each photo must also contain an outline with the following information: the location you took the photo, date and time of photo in addition to the specific text chapter and page number of topic pictured.

The research and analysis will include an explanation of the topic in the photo, such as the process of how the feature(s) was formed and a detailed description/analysis of how this example has an impact within Orange County. It is important to explain the significance and interrelationship between the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere and/or lithosphere.

- The analysis must be in your own words. Copying or paraphrasing from the text or other sources is plagiarism and will result in a zero for the analysis portion of your grade.

You may need to use outside sources for information specific to Orange County or the region you are living in currently. Any information from the text or other sources must be properly cited, using APA format for both the reference page and in-text citations.

- Schad, Jerry. (2006). *Afoot and Afield in Orange County*. Berkeley: Wilderness Press.
- Sharp, R.P. and Glazner, A.F. (1993). *Geology Underfoot in Southern California*. Missoula: Mountain Press Publishing.

Taking the Photos

Photos must be 3 x 5 or 4 x 6 in size, clear in color and in focus. No black and white photos.

Avoid forcing photos to fit topics and errors in analysis.

- For example, though waves are caused by wind, they are a coastal process, not a wind process.
- Choose your topics and possible illustrations before taking photos.
- Need to have geotag option on phone and include the photo details in the Appendix.
- Consult local and regional maps showing rivers, vegetation and topography.
- Choose a variety of locations to photograph – spending one day at Irvine Regional Park for your essay will result in a lower grade. This includes too many photos from your backyard.

Organizing the Essay and Analysis

Analysis must be in your own words.

- Avoid paraphrasing the textbook and use proper in-text citation for sources. (APA format)
- Conduct library research to learn more about the “why” and local impacts of the photo and topic you are writing about. For example, if I am living in Portland, Oregon, I would use the state and county parks as a resource. Interviews of local experts is also a good primary source of information. Recent articles on environmental issues in your community will also help.

Explain the process/topic being shown.

- You are responsible for researching information that has not been covered in lecture.

Explain how the process/topic is illustrated in the photo, do not assume that this is obvious – remember you are being graded on your ability to **identify these processes**, not my ability. Be specific to the example you have in the photo. This means you will need to research on the process unique to Orange County or your community, for example, weather data for the day/time you took the photo.

Identify **interrelationships** between topics when appropriate. Explain the significance. What is the **impact** of this process in Orange County? (Human-environmental interaction, for instance)

Organization

- All essays must have a Table of Contents identifying what is on each page of your essay.
- Photos must be in order by topic.
- Projects will have one photo and one paragraph per page.
- **You will submit the final project as a PDF only.**

Grading Criteria

Photo Essays will be graded on the following:

- Photos are neatly and clearly presented including all data and descriptive information.
- Photos are organized by topic, including a table of contents.

- Format follows sample given on this sheet.
- A variety of locations in Orange County (or community) are included.
- Inter-relationships between topics are discussed.
- Analysis is insightful and clearly related to information covered in class and text.
- Analysis demonstrates critical thinking and analysis of the impacts/significance of this process/topic in Orange County or your community
- Part I is worth 50 points.
- Part II is worth 50 points.
- Late projects will earn zero points regardless of circumstances.

Part I:

First 10 Topics and Chapters that you must find an example of in Orange County:

1. Chapter 3-Air Pollution
2. Chapter 4-Scattering
3. Chapter 5-Localized Wind Systems
4. Chapter 7-Midlatitude Cyclone or Midlatitude Anticyclone
5. Chapter 8-Anthropogenic Climate Change: Mitigation and Adaptation

Part II:

1. Chapter 11 – Terrestrial Flora and Fauna: Mediterranean Woodland and Scrub
2. Chapter 13 – Sedimentary, Igneous or Metamorphic rock feature (natural, not used in landscaping or construction)
3. Chapter 15 – Chemical or Biological Weathering
4. Chapter 15 – Type of Mass Wasting (landslide, rockfall, mudflow, or other from the text)
5. Chapter 20 – Human Alteration of Coastal Sediment Budget (if you do not live near a coastline, then you can use Chapter 16 – Fluvial Processes)
6. EXTRA CREDIT- Any chapter and topic not covered

Photo Essays Part I are due : Monday, October 29th by 11:59 PM and Part II is due Monday, December 7th by 11:59 PM

- Absolutely no late projects will be accepted regardless of circumstances. Poor planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part.