EENS 223 Introduction to Oceanography
Fall 2010

My Spot on the Beach Project

Objective: To present a wiki-based website to your classmates that describes your favorite spot on the beach (or on the sea) in a way that is provocative and that demonstrates your understanding of the 4 branches of oceanography.

Time Line:
1. 9Sep2009 - Initial proposal – 2%
2. 7Oct2009 - Group proposal – 2%
3. 11 Nov2009 - First Draft (Group Meetings to follow) – 2%
4. Final Exam Period – Presentation – 3%, Final content – 6%

Initial Proposal:
Think of a place on the beach or on the sea that is special to you or your family. If you have several, think of the most special. Think of the following questions:
1. What makes it special to me?
2. What makes it special in an oceanographic sense?
3. Why is it how it is?
4. What do I and what don’t I understand about this place?
5. How can I “advertise” this place to others to convince them that it is interesting both personally and oceanographically?
Write a brief (1 paragraph) proposal explaining to me where your place is and how you will convey it to others. Use the previous questions as a guide – you can include more information.

Group Proposal:
I will group you into 10 groups of approximately 4 people based on your initial proposals. You will be responsible for meeting as a group and coming up with a group proposal for your Wiki space. This proposal can be up to a page, and since it involves the thinking of all group members, it will necessarily contain more elaborate information. Each group should hand in one proposal and all members will receive the same grade.

Wiki Spaces:
I will present a short introduction to using Wiki spaces in class soon after the group proposals are handed in. At this point, it is the responsibility of the group to work together (or together remotely!). Using the Wiki spaces provided on Blackboard, I will be able to see who puts in what amount of work from your group – that means even though this is a group project, you will be graded individually on the final content.

1st Draft Group Meetings:
Toward the end of the semester, I will arrange meetings with all groups individually to assess your progress. This is to ensure that you are on the right track (i.e. you have started working on this) and to answer any questions you may have.
EENS 223 Introduction to Oceanography
Fall 2010

Presentations:
During your final exam period, after the test, we will have group presentations where each group will take us on a tour of their Wiki space. You will judged on your presentations by your peers (below is a example of the grading criteria) and by me on your final content. Each presentation should be 10 minutes long, and you are encouraged to use other A/V aids such as Power Point slides to relate the making of your Wiki space to the rest of the class.

Presentation Grading Criteria:
Professionalism – 0-5 pts
Clarity
Poise
Voice
Lack/Use/Overuse of humor

Conveyance of Science – 0-5 points
Terminology
Simplification of difficult concepts
Fluency
Illustration

Equality of Contributions – 0-5 points
Did all group members share in the presentation?

Audio/Visual Aids – 0-5 points
Clarity
Use of proper terminology
Simplicity

Ability to Answer Questions – 0-5 points
Terminology – comprehension and utilization
Clarity
Comprehension
Fluency
Completeness of answers