

Natural Disaster Paper due SOC March 20

1. Prompt: Pick a natural disaster (storm, earthquake, volcano, tsunami, fire, avalanche, landslide, mass extinction event, etc.) and write an informative paper about it. (1) Describe the disaster, (2) explain what caused it (scientific reasons), (3) tell how it impacted the environment and people, and (4) explain how the impacts of such a disaster could be minimized in the future. You may also include other aspects of the disaster that you find interesting.
2. You must have at least 3 sources.
3. Word count: 1,000-1,200 words (not including bibliography)
4. Submit the paper to turnitin.com by midnight on March 19, and give Mr. Benson a hard copy by the start of class on March 20. Instructions for how to submit to Benson's turnitin.com account will be provided a few days before the due date.
5. Follow "The Ten Rules of Paper Writing" below.
6. You may NOT write about these topics: Vesuvius 79 AD, Lake Nyos 1986, The Blizzard of 1993, Katrina 2005, The 2004 Tsunami, The 2011 Japan Earthquake and tsunami, Mt. St. Helens 1980. You may not choose the same topic as any of your friends.

Courtesy of Ms. Barnes and Mr. Pogreba

The Ten Rules of Paper Writing

(Failure in any of these areas means your paper may not be graded)

1. You will not submit a paper in the incorrect format. It will be double-spaced, in 12 point Times New Roman font.
2. The paper will meet the minimum requirements for words (1,000-1,500).
3. You will include a header that provides your name, period number, and the date the assignment was due.
4. Your paper should have at least an attempt at a clear thesis statement that previews the argument of the paper.
5. You will not include filler phrases like "I believe", "I think", or "I will prove..."
6. Your paper will demonstrate careful proofreading and editing.
7. Your paper will not include the word "you" in any context.
8. Your paper will not use the words "thing" or "things" for any reason.
9. ~~Your paper should reflect all of the suggestions offered by the teacher in previous drafts.~~
10. The paper will include a works cited page and appropriate in text citation.

Possible Topics for your Natural Disaster Paper

Floods and Flash Floods

Mississippi 1927 or 1993	Black Hills Flood 1972	Montana 2011 Oil Pipeline Break
Montana 1964	China 1931	Big Thompson Canyon 1976
East Helena 1981	1938 Yellow River	Many more possibilities

Avalanches

1951 Austria	Wellington, WA Avalanche 1910
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Solar Storms

1859	1989	2003
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Earthquakes

1700 Cascadia	1959 Montana	1935 Helena
1989 California	1964 Alaska	1906 San Francisco
2010 Haiti	2011 Japan	Chile 1960

Many more possibilities – Google “deadliest earthquakes”

Storms, Droughts, Fires

Chicago Heat Wave of 1995	Blizzard of 1947 or 1993	1925 Midwest Tornado
1974 Tornado Outbreak	KS Hail Storms 1951 or 1959	Bozeman Hail Storm 2010
Galveston Hurricane 1900	1900 India Drought	Dust Bowl of the 1930s
1928 Okeechobee Hurricane	Hurricane Audrey 1957	New England Hurricane 1938
Big Burn 1910	Yellowstone Fires 1988	Many more possibilities

Volcanoes, Mudflows, etc.

1985 Mudflow in Columbia	Krakatoa	Tambora
Mt. Pelee 1902	Mt. Unzen 1792 or 1991	Laki 1783

Oso, WA landslide 2014

Many more possibilities – Google “deadliest volcanoes”