

Geology 101, Fall 2006

### The Mt. Baker field trip writing assignment

Many middle school and junior high science teachers do not get adequate resources to do a complete job of teaching earth sciences to eighth graders. Part of the problem is that they may not know where to go on a field trip to see various geologic phenomena, and once they get there, what the students will be looking at and trying to discover for themselves.

In this assignment, you will create an earth sciences “module” — that is, a self-contained lesson plan for a middle school or junior high school science teacher, who is able to take his or her students out on a half-day field trip near Mt. Baker.

Assignment:

Write a **two- to three-page word-processed, double-spaced, proofread module** on one of these two titles:

“The Three Rock Types” or “Gradualism versus Catastrophism”

Whichever title you choose, the module should contain the following parts:

- A **background or introduction section** in which the main idea of the title is explained, and its relevance to geology.
- A **field trip section**, in which the directions to each stop, and a description of what to do and what to see, as well as what students may be able to physically take home. Since this is a half-day field trip, there should be **no more than three stops**.
- A **follow-up section**, which has suggestions to the teacher about what to talk about in the classroom to crystallize the “big ideas” of the field trip in the minds of the students.

Hints: Three rock types, three stops...hmm. Gradualism, catastrophism: an either/or proposition or are there intermediate processes?

Make your transitions between sections smooth; that is, one section should logically flow into the next.

You *may* wish to illustrate the stops with **photos** from the trip or scanned portions of **maps**.

You **must** have a **bibliography** with at least one outside non-Internet (i.e., printed) source cited fully.

The report is due **Friday, October 27** in class (if hard copy) or by e-mail as a .doc or .rtf attachment by 3 p.m.

