

Display case presentation project

As mentioned in class, “environmental geology” is where science meets public policy. Part of geology’s allure for most people is the beauty of various minerals and rocks. The intersection between science, policy and allure is ore-bearing minerals, which are interesting scientifically, economic to mine and are, in general, gorgeous specimens.

In this project, **you and up to one partner** will create a **display case** for the North Seattle Lapidary and Mineral Club 52nd Annual Rock and Gem Show, to be held March 18 and 19 at the Lake City Community Center. The contents of the case should be informative as well as visually appealing, but you are constrained to the space of the case. In addition, it is a rock and gem show put on by folks who like to do lapidary and jewelry, so they won’t care about water quality or landslide hazards. The topic of your display must be an **economically interesting mineral or rock**. We will hold our own “show” on **Wednesday, March 8 at 10 a.m.**

Requirements for the case:

- You will be using the dimensions of the **“Regional” display case** (see attached sheet). You do not have to create the box itself, but be prepared to lay it out on the table in the classroom as if you had it in the case. A suggestion: cut out a piece of cardboard to the dimensions of the base of the case to give yourself limits.
- It must contain at least **two specimens** (example: the rough stone and the cut, polished stone for a gem).
- It must contain at least **two graphic elements** (photos, graphs, high-quality web images, hand-drawn pictures) of which one must be a **map**.
- It must be a mineral or rock found in the greater **Pacific Northwest** (an area including British Columbia, mountainous Alberta, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington), and your display must include the locality at which your particular specimens were found.
- It must contain at least **350 words of text** but no more than 1000 words, including the captions on any specimen or illustration. You should mention something about the geologic setting/reason the ore or gem is there. The text must be word-processed in no smaller than 18-point type in a readable font (many of our members are older and have poor eyesight). Remember, you are trying to *educate* as well as *entertain*.
- The **title** must be followed by the author’s name (that’s you!), and must be at least half-inch (36-point) high letters.
- Finally, you must **cite and write bibliographic entries** for at least two references, which are either a book (a mass-market publication, not a textbook), a magazine (not a specialty journal) or a website (give the sponsoring organization). Remember the level of your audience, which is “interested amateur”.

You will also be turning in an **abstract** on the case the week before (handout to follow).

Suggestions for topics (you may choose any topic that follows or one that is not on the list at all, as long as it follows the requirements on the previous page — please consult me before you make your final selection):

- The nickel mine at Riddle, Oregon
- The gold mine in Wenatchee, Washington (sorry, you'll have to provide your own specimens)
- Detrital diamonds in Montanan rivers (again, provide your own specimens)
- The Emerald Creek, Idaho, garnet field
- Sapphires at Gem Mountain, Idaho
- Silver from the Monte Cristo mining district, Washington
- Copper from the Comox mining district, British Columbia