Earth Science

- Activity 16: Write an Opinion Essay
- **Topic 15: Earth Sciences Models**

General Instructions:

- Use a computer to complete your essay/document.
- Write a "five-part" 250-400 word essay in a single 40-minute session.
- Include an introduction, three key supporting paragraphs, and a conclusion.
- Correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar errors prior to completing work.
- Submit or share your final document with your instructor.

Suggestions and Tips:

- 1. Read the background and context provided to familiarize yourself with the subject area.
- 2. Select either A or B as the basis for your thesis.
- 3. Plan the essay prior to writing it.
- 4. Make the essay organized. Avoid placing multiple points in one paragraph.
- 5. Use only Times New Roman font 12 with double-spacing to format your document.
- 6. Discuss only one perspective in each of the body paragraphs.
- 7. Conclude with a summary.
- 8. In the summary, rephrase the introduction and thesis. Emphasize key supporting rationale.

Background and Context:

Models are a representation of something people want to know more about. Physical models are probably the easiest to understand. Physical models are sometimes bigger than the actual object being represented – like a model of an atom or a molecule. Physical models are sometimes smaller than the actual object (or, objects) being represented – like a model of the solar system. Often, models are created "to scale" – which is much like shrinking or enlarging the size of the original object. Other times, models take "artistic liberty" when it comes to the proportions of a model compared to the original object. The latter method is often very useful to illustrate and communicate concepts, but doesn't show actual size and distance relationships very well.

Position A: Students will best learn about the solar system with models that are "to-scale."

Position B: Students best learn about the solar system with conceptual models that are NOT "to-scale."