

Earth Science

Activity 16: Write an Opinion Essay

Topic 22: Earth's Past

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:

Background: Scientists use the expressions Eon, Era, Period, and Epoch to convey very long periods of time through shorter periods of time. This approach can be confusing at times - especially to students.

Position A - The approach used, even though it can be confusing, is appropriate and meaningful.

Position B - A simpler approach should be identified and used. This would help everyone - especially students.