

Earth Science

Activity 16: Write an Opinion Essay

Topic 24: Deformation of the Crust

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:

In all of the sciences, there are words used with specific meanings which have differing meanings in “every-day-language.” For example, in Earth Science, we use the words “stress”, “strain”, and “fault.” The definitions of these words when used in a general sense differ from the meaning when used in the context of the deformation of Earth’s crust. While the definitions are sometimes similar – they are not the same.

For example, to a geologists, “*stress*” refers to compression or shear on rocks that deforms the rock. In contrast, the word “*stress*” used in day-to-day conversation refers to feelings experienced when there are a lot of personal and social demand on someone.

Position A: Scientists should avoid using words that are easily confused with words used in every-day language.

Position B: It is okay for words in every-day language and in science to be the same word with different meanings.