Disaster Reporter Assignment – 75 pts total

Each week, 2 to 4 students will monitor all new and on-going natural hazards that occur. When it is your turn, your responsibilities will include 1) a very brief (about 5 minutes) oral presentation summarizing one disaster (or potentially disastrous event) that occurred the previous week 2) an original written summary (2-4 pages) of that event.

Use a variety of sources. Books, television, radio, internet, newspapers, and magazines are all acceptable.

**Presentation**

Be prepared to give your report on Tuesday of your week.
- Give a short (3-5 minutes) oral presentation summarizing a disaster that occurred the previous week. Be prepared to describe the events quickly and clearly.
- Discuss the critical statistics, as much as is known at the time – things like magnitude, number of people dead/injured, cost of damage, number of people evacuated, what area(s) were affected, etc.
- Include who, what, when, where, and why.
- Understand the event
- Understand the geography (where it happened)
- Include photos and maps
- Don’t forget a reference list
- Make sure you show us where it occurred with a map. Even if you have to use the world map on the course webpage and draw a dot or circle where it occurred. If you need help with geography, go to online WorldAtlas.com (use the find a country scrolling menu), World-Gazatteer.com (use the search menu to get a city’s geographic coordinates) or SiteAtlas.com.
- The presentation is worth 25 points.

You will turn in a copy of your presentation the day you give it.

**Paper**

The paper is due the day you give your presentation. You will be able to upload it to the Moodle site.
- Recap the hazard you reported on in a short, 2-4 page paper.
- In addition to the >2 pages of text, include maps and photos from the web.
- Your maps and photos should include captions and citations.
- Feel free to be creative, but make sure you include and expand on the information asked for your presentation listed above.
- Cite all your sources in the text, and in a reference list at the end of your paper. You should have at least 4 sources for your paper.
- Include a world or US map that clearly pinpoints the location of your event. If you need help finding the geographic coordinates, go to WorldAtlas.com (use the find a country scrolling menu), or http://www.sitesatlas.com/.
- See below for additional instructions.
- The paper is worth 50 points.
Guidelines for Writing Disaster Reporter Summary

A well done paper will-

- be written in a clear and concise manner
- include graphics, maps and photos with figure captions written by student
- contain 2-4 pages of text
- be appropriately referenced within the body of the paper, using at least four news sources
- include references in the text as well as a references cited list at the end of the paper

Content & Organization Suggestions

I strongly encourage you to read through the content and organization suggestions below and to use them in your paper. When you begin your paper, use links provided under Current Events on web-link page and use internet search engines (e.g. hit search button, or type over listed http address:  http://www.google.com). If we haven't covered this type of disaster in class, use your textbook as another source of information. Ask me for help if you need it.

Suggestions below.

The title should be brief and to the point. For example: Slow Recovery from Earthquake Disaster in Izmet

1. Introduction/Background/Historical Perspective:

- The first paragraph should set up your article with a general introduction that gives a historical perspective on the geological hazard in the area. Provide: an explanation of why the hazard occurs at this place, historical perspective on past frequency and magnitude of hazards in this area, information on what sorts of risks are there in general, etc.

2. Description of current hazard.

- Describe the current geologic hazard. An example for a start to this section might be "Monsoon storms have created coastal flooding throughout the x-y province" (explain the term if you think a general reader might not understand it.)
- Use map(s) to show locations of hazardous impacts.
- Follow topic sentence with a more quantitative description of hazardous processes: "There have been x inches of rain since August. The level of flooding is 3 feet above normal river levels"

3. Description of effects of hazard, what risks are being realized

- Describe different categories of the effects. Topics could include: Death toll, economic losses, secondary effects (health risks, disease, starvation etc.)
- Use photo(s) to show nature hazardous impacts.
- In the section you should attempt to quantify the major damages: "Two-thirds of crops are under water. 6,000 people have been reported missing. $XXXX have been lost......etc."
- Describe the full extent of the hazardous effects: "Flooding has resulted, contaminating the drinking water and creating a major health hazard." Think about primary effects, such as displacing people from homes, as well as secondary effects, such as problem of overcrowding in relief camps, breakdown of economic structure, loss of services etc.
4. List of References

- see suggestions below

Writing/Stylistic Suggestions

- Use topic sentences at the beginning of each paragraph.
- Don't write a news script.
- Do not use first person in writing. Don't write: "I read about a big earthquake this week......." Just write about the disaster.
- Do not personalize. Don't write: "I feel it’s really unfair that the government is not helping these people" Just state the facts and let the reader make a judgment.
- Be specific, not vague, in writing. For example, don’t write: "This was the biggest storm in recent years." Do write: This 6-day storm dumped 22 inches of rain over southern Michigan, making it the biggest storm in the last 122 years.
- Provide references in the text of the article. Basically everything you write, except your own opinions or general knowledge should be referenced. This includes photos and figures that you copied from the web (unless you took the picture or made the figure yourself). General knowledge is information that everybody knows.
- Reference formats should include author, news source, date of article, date accessed, and (if appropriate) full internet addresses


Note: Plagiarism is unacceptable. If you have questions about what plagiarism means, be sure to stop by and talk to me, call me or email me.