

Project 1:

Monitoring Current Events - Hazard Tweeting

Geology/Geography 106 (40 pts)

Hazards are happening every day – from quakes to storms to landslides. Some are rapid events (quakes, tornadoes), some are ongoing events (disease outbreaks, volcanic eruptions) and others (climate change, famine) are driven by human activities. All of them have some impact on human society and therefore, are relevant to all of us in some form or another.

In order to keep current in this class I'm going to ask you to monitor what's going on in the world and post events, news reports and your thoughts and opinions on the class Twitter page. Why Twitter? Two reasons – (1) it is one of the growing ways we communicate information these days and (2) it's short and to the point – your post cannot be any longer than 140 characters.

Assignment: Make a total of 8 posts to the class Twitter site during the quarter. To ensure that these posts are spread out, you need to complete at least 2 posts during each 2-week period of the course:

- Weeks 3 and 4: Now through May 1
- Weeks 5 and 6: May 2 through May 15
- Weeks 7 and 8: May 16 through May 29
- Weeks 9 and 10: May 30 through June 12

What you can post:

- A natural hazard based current event (quake, landslides, tornado, etc.) with a link to its source – keep it simple, the link will take up half your 140 characters. Only one person can post the occurrence of an event (after that it is old news).
- A recent news story, video clip, report about natural hazards (new way to monitor volcanoes, updates on relief efforts in Haiti, archeological site with evidence of a landslide, etc.) with a link to its source.
- Your thoughts/opinions on a recent current event or news story.
- Your thoughts on something we discussed in class or read about in the book.

Example of a post on April 12:

"A deep 6.3 quake struck southern Spain yesterday.<<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/recenteqsww/Quakes/us2010uycs.php>> -RJV"

One good way to monitor events is to use the links to current events on the class web site. You may also find it useful to subscribe to RSS feeds on natural disasters and/or use a cell phone "app" that keeps you current.

How to view the site and post a tweet:

To just view the site, go to: <http://twitter.com/Geol106>
or link to it from the class web site.

To log in go to: <http://twitter.com/> or <http://twitter.com/Geol106>

In the upper right corner is a box labeled "sign in" - click that box and enter the following information:

Username: Geol106

Password: SEE INSTRUCTOR

Once in the class Twitter Page, you will see a box at the top of the page labeled "What's happening?". Enter your post in that box, then click "Tweet" and it will be posted to the class Twitter page. (If you don't see the "What's happening?" box, click on the "Home" tab at the top of the page and it will take you to the right place.) Note that you can only use 140 characters – including any links you use and your initials. Be sure to carefully check your spelling and grammar before posting.

When you are done, please log out. In addition, please do not change the account settings, or change the site information in any way. This is a class site, so everyone in the class has access to it. If I find there the site is being abused we will have to switch to a more work intensive, less pleasant way to post your current events and thoughts.

Remember to get credit for “tweeting” you must:

- Include your three initials at the end of your tweet – (use “X as a middle initial if you do not have a middle name / use 4 letters if you have two middle names). If I don’t know who made the post I can’t give you credit.
- Make at least 2 posts in each 2 week period – for a total of 8 posts. Additional posts may gain you some extra credit.
- Make sure that your posts are not just repeating an event that someone else has already reported on. (You can comment on an earlier event, but only one person gets to officially “report it”.)

Once a week or so, I’ll ask the class to share some interesting observations from the twitter page, so look over other posts. Have fun, be civil, and tweet away!