

ES088F: A Foundation for Medical and Forensic Geology
FINAL TERM PAPER/REPORT
Guidelines For Report

The Xavier Pye-Hurd Case

Report due at 4:00 pm in drop box, Thursday, November 30, 2006

As a forensic geologist with Crime Scene Investigation Unit of London Ontario it is your job to aid authorities in determining the chain of events that occurred between June 30, 2006 (when the victim, Mr. Pye-Hurd was last seen alive at his London home), and July 14, 2006 (when Pye-Hurd was first reported missing by his neighbour, Ms. Spitschis). The Unit Chief of your investigation unit has asked that your report be submitted in the format outlined below, with corresponding headings [as indicated below] for each section. Sources of information beyond that provided in the documents already provided to you must be properly cited in the text, and included as full references at the end of your report in the format outlined in this document.

Title Page

This page should include the title of the report (Preliminary Forensic Report on the Xavier Pye-Hurd Case), your name, student number, course name, and due date.

Introduction (about 100 words)

Provide a very brief background of the case, and how you intend on examining the evidence (as outlined below). This section should provide a very brief statement on the nature of the case, indicating the crime committed, identities of the suspects and witnesses, and the basic forms of evidence that you will be using to solve the case.

The Activities of Mr. Xavier Pye-Hurd Prior to His Murder (500 words)

You will recall that this investigation was initiated on a call to police by the victim's neighbour Susan Spitschis at 4:00 pm on July 14, 2006. She last saw the victim at 2:00 pm on June 30, 2006. The murder of Mr. Pye-Hurd and the concealment of his body took place sometime between these two times.

The first task to accomplish is to deduce the activities of the victim prior to his murder. Using the information provided to you by the Unit Chief, deduce whether or not the victim actually accomplished what he told his neighbour he was planning to do over the holiday weekend. Make sure you back up your claims with the information that you have been provided with and any other sources of information that you have used to support your arguments (e.g. journals, books, websites, maps, etc.).

Events Leading Up to the Death of Mr. Pye-Hurd (400 words)

In this part of your report, you will provide an explanation (to the best of your abilities) of where and approximately when (i.e. calendar date), the suspect(s) first made contact with Mr. Pye-Hurd, and the events that took place between the time this contact was made and when the victim was murdered. Again, make sure that you support all your claims with evidence that has been given to you together with any supplementary information you can find from external sources (e.g. journals, books, website, maps, etc.).

Cause of Death (200 words)

To the best of your abilities, explain the ultimate cause of death of Mr. Pye Hurd, again using the information supplied to you and any information from external sources that you can find to support your claim.

Post-Mortem History of the Remains of the Victim (about 200 words)

Comment on what the taphonomic characteristics of the corpse and any other evidence associated with the corpse indicate about the post-mortem history of the victim's remains, again supporting your claims with evidence provided and external sources of information (where pertinent).

Examination of the Mr. Eberth's Claims (about 500 words)

Read Mr. Eberth's testimony provided in the last document provided to you. Explain whether or not Mr. Eberth's claims of his whereabouts and activities between June 30, 2006 and July 2, 2006 are valid, using the information provided, as well as any supplementary information (e.g. journals, books, website, maps, etc.) that you feel supports your arguments.

Reconstructing the Events of July 5 and 6, 2006 (about 200 words)

Supporting your claims with the evidence provided by the Unit Chief, explain what you believe happened between Wednesday, July 5 (early evening) and July 6 (morning).

Conclusions and Recommendations (about 100 words)

Suggest who you think killed Mr. Pye-Hurd and make a recommendation of further measures that should be made in the investigation of this case.

References

Provide full citations of all sources of information (other than your own) you have used in this report, in the format outlined below.

Further Instructions on Writing Your Report

Marking Criteria and Due Date

Your mark will be primarily based on the content of your report, but your grade will also be greatly influenced by your organizational and writing abilities (yes, this does include spelling and grammar). All essays should be double-spaced and typed in 12-point font. **Reports showing any evidence of plagiarism will be given a grade of zero. Also note that the information you have collected for your report should be paraphrased in your own words. Avoid using direct quotations unless such a quotation is critical to the subject being discussed. Avoid using footnotes; instead, use the reference format provided below.**

Due Date: 4:00 pm in drop box, Thursday, November 30, 2006

10% will be automatically deducted for assignments handed in after 4:00 pm, November 30, 2006. An additional 10 % will be deducted for each day late thereafter.

Illustrations

You can use pictures to illustrate your point (if you feel that they help in your explanation). When you use a picture, you must refer to the corresponding figure number in the text of your report.

Example of a figure should be referred to in the text

Diamond is made of carbon atoms that are arranged in a specific three-dimensional pattern (Figure 1). Each picture should be assigned a figure number and caption, with a reference to the original source of the picture.

Examples of figure captions:

Figure 1: The internal arrangement of carbon atoms within the crystal structure of diamond (from Hildebrand, 1984).

Citations in Text

Properly cite all information used in the text of your essay that is not your own. For articles with more than one author, write the last name of the first author, followed by “et al.”

Hard-copy and authored internet articles

For hard-copy publications and , cite the last name(s) of authors, followed by year of publication.

Example sentence:

The effects of volcanic ashfall on marine communities are well-documented (Radinsky, 1987; Fredrickson and Olstott, 1996; Heikoop et al., 1996).

Another example sentence:

As documented by Radinsky (1987), Frederickson and Olstott (1996) and Heikoop et al. (1996), volcanic ashfall can profoundly affect the health of marine communities.

Yet another example sentence (this one is for an authored internet article):

Research on the martian meteorite ALH84001 has provided intriguing evidence for possible ancient life on Mars (McKay et al., 1996).

Unauthored internet articles

If using a website article without an author, give an appropriate title (e.g. Mt. St. Helens Article, Discovery Channel Website).

A Note on Quotations

You are discouraged from using direct quotations; wherever possible, express the concepts in your own words. If you feel that a quotation is absolutely necessary, provide a citation as indicated above, followed by the page number of the publication you derived the quotation from (e.g., Heikoop et al., 1996, p. 287). If using an unauthored internet article, cite it as indicated above - a page number is not necessary.

Reference Format

Citations in the text and figure captions of your essay should correspond with full citations in a "References" section at the end of your report. This should be divided into the subheadings "Hard-copy publications and authored internet publications" and "Unauthored internet articles" These should be listed in alphabetical order (according to last name of author or title of webpage). Your references must be written in the following format:

Hard-copy publications and authored internet articles

1) For scientific journal articles:

Heikoop, J.M., Tsujita, C.J., Risk, M.J., and Tomascik, T., 1996, Corals as proxy recorders of volcanic activity: evidence from Banda Api, Indonesia. *Palaios*, v. 11, p. 286-292.

2) For books:

Radinsky, L.B., 1987, *The Evolution of Vertebrate Design*. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 188 p.

3) For articles in popular magazines:

Fredrickson, J.K., and Onstott, T.C., 1996, Microbes deep inside the Earth. *Scientific American*, October, p. 68-73.

5) For articles in compendia:

Kidwell, S.M., and Bosence, D.J.W., 1991, Taphonomy and time -averaging of marine shelly faunas. *In*: Allison, P.A. and Briggs, D.E.G., eds., *Taphonomy: Releasing the Data Locked in the Fossil Record*. Plenum Press, New York, p. 115-209.

6) For articles in conference symposia:

Buddemeier, R.W., 1974, Environmental controls over annual and lunar monthly cycles in hermatypic coral. *Proceedings of the Second International Symposium on Coral Reefs*, v. 2, Great Barrier Reef Committee, Brisbane, p. 259-267

7) For authored website articles

McKay, D.S., Gibson, E.K., Thomas-Keprta, K.L., and Vali, H., 1996, Search for past life on Mars: possible relic biogenic activity in Martian meteorite ALH84001. *Lunar and Planetary Institute website*, <http://cass.jsc.nasa.gov/lpi.html>. Accessed February 19, 2005.

Unauthored internet articles:

If an author is not provided on the website, use the appropriate title cited in the text and give the full address of the website source you obtained the information from, plus the date at which the article was accessed. For example:

Mt. St. Helens article, Discovery Channel website,
<http://dsc.discovery.com/news/afp/20041004/helens.html>. Accessed February 20, 2005.
Pearls article, American Museum of Natural History website,
<http://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/pearls/>. Accessed February 21, 2005

Please follow instructions !