

## Unit 2: Rocks and the Rock Record Project

The Rocks and Rock Record Project Rubric provides a consistent and clear framework for evaluating your lab report on index fossils and geologic time. This rubric assesses your ability to accurately analyze fossil data, follow the scientific process, and demonstrate understanding of Earth's geologic past. The project will be evaluated based on the accuracy of fossil identification, clarity of the table and fossil sequencing, explanations in analysis and conclusion, and overall report quality.

<b>Rocks and the Rock Record Project – General Grading Rubric (20 Points)</b>				
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Needs Improvement</b>	<b>Below Expectations</b>
<b>Fossil Identification, Geologic Time Accuracy &amp; Arrangement Table (5 pts)</b>	5 pts- All fossils correctly identified; periods accurate; table complete and clearly ordered.	3 pts- Most fossils are correct; there are minor time or order errors; the table is mostly clear	2 pts- Some mistakes in identification or periods; the table has order or format issues.	0 pt- Fossils are mostly wrong or missing; the time data is inaccurate; there is no usable table.
<b>Analysis &amp; Conclusion Responses (6 pts)</b>	6 pts- All analysis and conclusion questions are thoroughly answered with clear, scientifically sound explanations.	4 pts- All questions are addressed with mostly accurate explanations and minor gaps or generalizations.	2 pts- Some questions lack depth, clarity, or strong scientific support; conclusions are somewhat general.	0 pts Most questions are unanswered or scientifically inaccurate; conclusions are missing or very weak.
<b>Format &amp; Organization (2 pts)</b>	2 pts- Clear, well-organized writing; excellent transitions and structure.	1 pt – Mostly clear and organized; occasional awkward phrasing or unclear sections.	0.5 pt – Disorganized or unclear writing; lacks logical flow.	0 pts – Writing is confusing or off-topic throughout.
<b>Grammar, Spelling, and Mechanics (3 pts)</b>	3 pts – No grammar or spelling errors; writing is clear and easy to read.	2 pts – 1–2 minor errors; meaning is still clear.	1 pt – Several errors that slightly affect clarity.	0 pts – Many errors that make the writing hard to understand.
<b>Effort &amp; Completion (2 pts)</b>	2 pts – demonstrates remarkable accuracy, attention to detail, and effort, constantly going	1 pt – Fully complete and meets requirements.	0.5 pt – Some required elements missing or incomplete	0 pts – Assignment largely incomplete or rushed.

	above and beyond expectations.			
<b>Citation (2 pts)</b>	2pt- All sources are correctly cited in MLA format. includes a complete Works Cited or References page.	1 pt- Most sources are cited correctly; minor formatting errors; Works cited/references page is included.	0.5 pt- Some sources are cited; there are several formatting or content errors; The Works Cited/References page is incomplete.	0 pts- No citations provided.

### **Plagiarism Policy Reminder**

American High School upholds the highest standards of academic integrity and expects all students to demonstrate honesty and responsibility in their academic work. Academic integrity is a fundamental value of our school community, requiring students to complete their own work and appropriately acknowledge the ideas and words of others.

This expectation also includes the responsible use of technology. The excessive or inappropriate use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools to complete assignments, tests, or projects—in place of a student's own effort—is considered a violation of the school's academic integrity policy.

Any instance of plagiarism—defined as presenting another person's work, ideas, or expressions as one's own—is a serious violation of school policy. Students found in violation of the plagiarism policy will face disciplinary consequences.

Students are encouraged to review the full policy to ensure a clear understanding of expectations and consequences.

**Click [here](#) to read the updated Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Policy.**