

Unit 3: Dynamic Earth Project

This project is designed to evaluate your understanding of volcanic activity and geological processes and your ability to communicate scientific ideas clearly and creatively. You will be graded on content accuracy, vocabulary use, organization, creativity, writing mechanics, source use, and overall effort. Each category includes specific expectations to help guide you toward a high-quality and well-rounded final product.

Unit 3: Dynamic Earth Project – General Grading Rubric (20 Points)				
Criteria	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement	Below Expectations
Scientific Content & Accuracy (5 pts)	5 pts – Deep, accurate understanding of volcanic activity and geology	3 pts – Good understanding, minor errors	2 pts – Some inaccuracies or lack of detail	1 pt – Major errors or misconceptions
Use of Required Vocabulary (4 pts)	4 pts – All required vocabulary words (e.g., magma, lava, seismograph, P wave, deformation) are used naturally and correctly in writing or presentation.	3 pts – Most terms are used correctly, but a few are missing or slightly misused.	2 pts – Several terms are incorrect or missing.	1 pt – Few or no terms used correctly
Project Structure & Organization (3 pts)	3 pts – Report, video, or slides are well-organized, flow logically, and are easy to follow. Follows standard report format as required.	2 pts – Mostly organized, but a few sections are unclear or out of order.	1 pt – Disorganized, making it hard to understand your ideas.	0.5 pt – No clear structure; information is scattered.
Perspective & Creativity (2 pts)	2 pts – Creative and insightful viewpoint	1 pt – displays originality, but the tone and level of detail are inconsistent.	0.5 pt – Limited creativity; mostly a plain restatement of facts.	0 pt – No original thought or creativity.
Grammar, Spelling, Mechanics (2 pts)	2 pts- Error-free grammar and punctuation, with exceptional clarity.	1 pt- Good grammar and punctuation, with only minor errors.	0.5 pt- Noticeable grammar and punctuation errors that impact clarity.	0 pt- Frequent grammar and punctuation errors that significantly impact readability.
Use of Sources & Citations (2 pts)	2 pts – 3 reliable sources, cited properly in MLA format.	1 pts – Sources are cited, but with minor MLA formatting issues.	0.5 pt – One or two sources, inconsistent format	0pt – No sources cited or all citations are incorrect.

Effort & Overall Quality (2 pts)	2 pts – Exceeds expectations, highly detailed	1 pts – Solid work meets all requirements	0.5 pt – Minimal effort or incomplete	0pt – Poor quality or requirements not met
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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.