

Oceanography Exercises
SUGGESTIONS FOR BETTER WRITTEN ANSWERS

Meet the Minimum - Answer specifically what the question is asking, then add details *only* if they are relevant.

Do NOT Cut & Paste - Process the information that you find on the web. Put it into your own words. Make sure to answer the specific question, not just whatever you found that is sort of related.

Complete Thoughts, Complete Sentences - Read your answer back to yourself. If you read this explanation in a textbook, would it make any sense?

Clear Writing Comes from Clear Thinking - If you understand the idea behind the question, express it clearly in your written answer.

Talk Your Way Past Writer's Block - Everyone gets writer's block occasionally. If you get stuck, pretend that you are telling a friend about the subject. Scribble down what you said (quickly), then clean up the words for a final written answer.

Grammar Counts - And so does spelling. If you use a word processor, use the spell-check tool. Or a dictionary. Or your textbook for specialized words. But don't let either grammar or spelling get in the way of getting your idea down on the page - just make sure to edit afterwards.

Don't Wait Until the Last Minute - Plan ahead. Even fairly simple exercises require time and effort. Don't short-change your answers — and your grade — by rushing.

NO BS - It's easy to spot, and it won't get you anywhere.

College Is the Start of Your Career - Get your priorities straight. Five years after graduation, heavy partying during college will not have helped you a bit. But the skills that you developed and what you learned from your courses and professors will.