

# 40-point rubric for GIS lab reports

Student \_\_\_\_\_

A documents that describes how points are earned.

## Purpose

3

Based on what the student wrote, did the student express the purpose of the lab using his or her own words AND demonstrate that they understand *why* they did the assignment? If 'no', then award 0 points. If 'yes', then award between 1 and 3 points according to quality.

## Objectives

3

Based on what the student wrote, did they express the list of objectives using their own words AND demonstrate that they understand *what* tasks needed to be accomplished to satisfy the purpose? If 'no', then award 0 points. If 'yes', then award between 1 and 3 points according to quality.

## Methods and data

6

Based on what the student wrote, did the student describe *how* each objective was accomplished AND are those methods repeatable? (In other words, would a reasonable person be able to use the report as a set of instructions and reproduce the same results?) GIS2 (GIS3) students can (should) use cartographic models to illustrate their methods. All GIS students must report SQL expressions with correct syntax. All GIS students must report each formula used to make a mathematical calculation, define each term in the formula, and indicate the unit of measure associated with each term. Award points (0 to 6) according to quality.

## Results and answers to the lab questions

20

Based on what the student wrote, have all lab questions been answered completely and correctly? Award points (0 to 20) according to the quality and proportion of complete and correct responses. Questions in the handout are often weighted differently, for some may prompt a student to recall a simple fact (and be worth less), while others may prompt students to apply spatial reasoning, describe a spatial pattern, or combine pieces evidence to draw an inference (and be worth more).

2

Have all reported values (inputs or outputs) been reported with their attendant units of measure? If 'yes' throughout the entire report, then award 2 points. If 'no' anywhere in the report, then award 0 points. Every value MUST be reported with its correct unit of measure (unless indicated in the table header, table caption, figure caption, or map legend).

## Summary and conclusion

4

Based on what the student wrote, did the student accomplish each objective and satisfy the purpose of the lab? Perhaps the student shared a "light bulb" moment when something clicked after a moment of success (or a moment of failure). Perhaps the student asked a lingering question. Perhaps the student described a connection s/he made between the lab and another course or a current event. Award points (0 to 5) according to quality of the discussion. NOTE: Check each handout for any special instructions.

## Report organization and format

2

Were the student's name, date, and lab title placed at the top of the first page and is the report formatted in accordance with the requirements listed in the deliverables section of the lab handout (i.e., page margins and page numbers, bold section headings, inline figures and tables, numbered and captions for all figures (below) and tables (above), and consistent use of: font style and size, line spacing, indentation, etc.)? If 'yes' to all, then award 2 points. If 'no' to any, then award 0 points.

## Adjustment for innovation

0

The default score is 0 points. Bonus points can be awarded for extra effort and innovation. If graphic devices (tables, figures, images, or plates) were used, do they highlight the data and look professional? Are the rows in each table sorted meaningfully (i.e., not just alphabetically)? Did the student try AND document (whether successful or not) new methods, tools, or parameter settings?

---

40

Final score

Comments: