Instructions for Writing Your Papers in EPS/Geology 131
Use of AI Chatbots and Grading Rubric

We are going to do something a little different this year in this course. You are encouraged to use ChatGPT or other chatbots (Google Bard, Heypi, etc.) to write a paper.

However, it must be in the assigned format as below. In addition, if you choose to use a chatbot, you should be aware that these AI bots "hallucinate" a lot. Which means that it makes up references and facts that don't actually exist. And its actually pretty easy to tell if a chatbot has been used. For example, when it lists references, it often takes names at random, combines them with titles at random, and journal citations at random.

So if you do choose to use a chatbot, you will then be required to write a 1+ page commentary on what it got right and what it got wrong, in addition to the paper itself. This will (hopefully) provide you with a habit of checking carefully to see whether the output of the chatbot is correct or not.

In terms of grading, you will be graded on the content of the paper (60%), and the format (40%).

Writing Your Paper for EPS/Geology 131
Guidelines for Format

1.   Your paper should be 4-7 pages single spaced or equivalent, about 2000+ words.   If the major part of it is a computer program that you write, then it can be somewhat shorter.

2.   Sections of your paper should include:

Abstract (a short paragraph summarizing your paper, about 5-8 sentences)

Introduction   (what is the point of the paper?)

Main body of paper (a detailed description of your topic)

Discussion or Conclusions (summarize your main points)

References (bibliography)

Figures and tables either be embedded in the text or at the end. All figures should have captions that include the source of the figure/table/data.

2.   Make sure you use proper grammar and spelling! Use a spell checker.

3.   Bibliography/References. More credit if you use more references. 15 references is generally considered a minimum. Use a standard form for the bibliography, such as:

Author names, Title of article or book, publisher, pages, date.

The citations should be inline in the text, either in the form of (Author Name, date of publication), or as numbered citations corresponding to numbering in the Bibliography.

If you use web sites, put them into a "Notes" section, and state when the URL was accessed.

Note that Google Scholar is very helpful for finding reference articles.

Please do note the example paper included nearby that demonstrates how the format of the paper should be constructed.