

**Hunter College of the City University of New York**  
**THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA**

**REQUIRED LANDSCAPE EXERCISE**

The purpose of this Web-based exercise, which is worth 25% of your final grade, is to increase your awareness and knowledge of selected human and physical landscape features that characterize various parts of the United States and Canada. DUE NO LATER THAN MAY 16, 2013.

You are required to submit a **20-unit portfolio of landscapes** to which is attached (1) a **Cover Page** with your name, course number and date; (2) a **Table of Contents** with the names of the landscape features and their corresponding numbers placed on the numbered (1-20) lines, state or province location of the feature, and page number where the landscape feature description is found; and (3) a **Map of North America** showing the location of each feature listed in the Table of Contents by using the ID number of the corresponding feature.

Each landscape portfolio page is to be **headed by a title** that corresponds to an item in the list at the end of the instructions. The contents of each page must consist of the following minimum requirements:

1. One thumbnail **continent locator map** showing the feature's location in North America;
2. One **detailed readable map** of the landscape feature that shows local information;
3. One **photograph or illustration** of the feature in question; and
4. A **half-page written description** of the subject and its geographic significance. (*Consult the Fundamental Themes of Geography handout.*)

The written description MUST be in your own words, and NOT something that you have cut-and-pasted from an online source. (*Everyone has their own writing style as do on-line sources!*) The verbal portion should be done in paragraph format using 11-12 point type and take up at least half the page (*3-4 inches of page in portrait mode or 2-3 inches of page in landscape mode*). One-three sentences or just phrases are not acceptable. Typing should be single-spaced and have standard 1-inch margins to either side. See NOTES below. The 20 landscape features you choose should be varied and represent different areas of the U.S. and Canada – from the Arctic to the Everglades, from the mountains to the plains, from urbanized areas to rural towns, from manufacturing complexes to wilderness areas as discussed in the 18 textbook chapters.

**NOTES:**

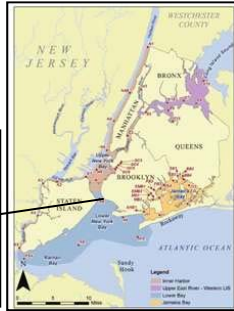
1. Information may be gathered from anywhere **except Wikipedia, the power point slides used in class, and the textbook**. There should be at least two (2) different sources of information for each landscape. (*Never rely on one source when doing research.*)
2. **DO NOT CUT and PASTE** web-derived information.  
Summarize it. Focus on the topic. Present the landscape feature specific to the theme.
3. Information that is photocopied from a book, atlas, road map, topographic map or other hard copy source is permitted and should be trimmed and taped to an 8"x11" page.
4. **Every illustration** (photo or map) **must have a caption**. (*What are we looking at?*)
5. **Citations** (sources of information) are to be placed **at the end of the write up** or attached to the caption. >>>*No separate bibliography page is needed!*
6. Page orientation may be **portrait or landscape**.
7. Page layout may be constructed in **one column or two column format**.

## Landscape 1: The Narrows of NY Harbor

Locator map.



Site and situation of The Narrows.



Location of the terminal moraine of the continental glacial.



Satellite view of The Narrows and the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge.



V-N Bridge crossing The Narrows from Ft. Hamilton to Ft. Wadsworth.



The Narrows of New York Harbor is a gap in the terminal moraine created at the end of the last Ice Age as the glacial lake located behind the moraine was breached. It marks the entrance to New York Harbor, separating Upper New York Bay from Lower New York Bay. Its deep channel allows the largest ships to enter the harbor. Located between the Long Island and Staten Island, The Narrows protects Upper New York Bay from wind and waves originating in the Atlantic Ocean. Fort Wadsworth (Staten Island) and Fort Hamilton (Brooklyn), located on high ground overlooking The Narrows, historically protected NY Harbor from naval attack. The Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, the world's longest suspension bridge when completed in 1964, spans The Narrows carrying traffic between Brooklyn and Staten Island. Its opening sparked the rapid growth of SI's population.

Etc., etc., etc. for additional information to fill at least a half-page of description and analysis.

**Sources:** United States Geological Survey ([www.usgs.gov](http://www.usgs.gov)); Yahoo Images ([www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com)); Schubert, C. *The Geology of New York City and Environs*, New York: Natural History Press, 1968.

### COVER PAGE

## ***A Sample of Landscapes found in the US and Canada***

Your Name

GEOG 251 *Geography of the US and Canada*

Date

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Landscape P, p.2
2. Landscape Q, p. 3
3. Landscape R, p. 5
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6. ....
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8. ....
9. ....
10. ....



20. Landscape S, p. 26

### MAP of NORTH AMERICA (see p. 5 of this exercise)



Locate all your landscapes on this map using numbers 1-20 for the required locations.

## LANDSCAPE FEATURE TOPICS

**Choose a mix of 20 landscapes from the 80 listed to include in your portfolio.** The 20 landscape features you choose should be varied and represent different areas of the U.S. and Canada – from the Arctic to the Everglades, from the mountains to the plains, from urbanized areas to rural towns, from manufacturing complexes to wilderness areas.

1. Alaska Pipeline
2. Aleutian Islands
3. Amish area (choose Ohio or New York or Pennsylvania)
4. Badlands topography
5. Baffin Island environment
6. Barrier islands of the East Coast (select one segment)
7. Basin and Range topography
8. Black Hills environment
9. Canadian Rockies environment
10. Canals and locks (pick one set)
11. Cape Cod landscapes
12. Clear cutting in the Pacific Northwest
13. Coal mining in Pennsylvania
14. Colonial fort location (pick one)
15. Congressional Survey System
16. Containerization ports (pick one)
17. Dams on the Columbia River
18. Desert landscape of southern Arizona
19. Dutch influence on the landscape of the Hudson Valley, NY
20. El Camino Real (California)
21. Everglades of South Florida
22. Farming in California's Central Valley
23. Feed lots of the Mid West
24. Finger Lakes of Upstate New York
25. Fjord coastline
26. Florida Keys tropical landscape
27. Folded Appalachians
28. Freeways of Los Angeles urban landscape
29. French long lot system
30. Fruit tree landscape
31. Gentrification in the city of (pick one)
32. Ghost towns of the West
33. Great Salt Lake and vicinity
34. Hog farms
35. Hoh Rainforest natural landscape
36. Hurricane X (pick one): before and after landscapes
37. Inside Passage of the Pacific Northwest
38. Lake of the Woods natural landscape
39. Lake Tahoe and vicinity
40. Lava flows on the island of Hawaii

41. Meander loops and oxbow lakes of the Mississippi flood plain
42. Metes and bounds survey system
43. Mississippi River delta meets the Gulf of Mexico
44. Missouri River flooding landscape
45. Monument Valley natural landscape
46. Mountain ski resort landscapes (pick one)
47. Napa Valley wine country
48. National Park Service recreation area (pick one NRA)
49. New England townscapes
50. New Orleans flood control system
51. Northern estates
52. Okefenokee Swamp
53. Open pit mines
54. Pacific Coast Highway
55. Pearl Harbor's physical landscape and its affect on Dec. 7, 1941.
56. Pivot irrigation system
57. Portland, ME vs. Portland, OR (compare the landscapes of the two cities)
58. Railroads crossing the Rocky Mts. (select one US or Canadian RR lines)
59. Redwood forests
60. Rocky Mountain passes
61. Rocky shorelines
62. Rust belt landscapes of the northeast US
63. Salton Sea and vicinity
64. San Andreas Fault zone
65. Santa Fe Trail landscapes
66. Shopping mall landscape (pick one)
67. Site and situation of any state or provincial **capital** city
68. Southern plantations
69. Street pattern of Washington, DC
70. Strip mining
71. Suburbanization of (pick a city)
72. Tornado Alley
73. Tourist landscape of Orlando, FL and vicinity
74. Tundra landscape of around Hudson Bay
75. Urban landscape of (choose Toronto or Chicago or Denver or Seattle)
76. U.S./Mexico border area
77. Volcanic features of western North America (pick one area)
78. Wheat fields of the Dakotas or Prairie Provinces
79. Yakima Valley agricultural area
80. Zuni Pueblo

*NOTE: A mix similar to the following, using sites from the Arctic to Florida and Hawaii and areas in between, would provide diversity to your portfolio:*

*5 physical features*

*5 cultural features*

*2 features from urbanized areas*

*3 environmental impact features*

*3 features from national/state/provincial park sites*

*2 features from colonial/pioneer times*

# LANDSCAPE FEATURES PORTFOLIO LOCATOR MAP



## KEY to LOCATION of the LANDSCAPES included in the PORTFOLIO

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