

**HUNTER COLLEGE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY**

**GEOG 260/621/709 - GEOGRAPHY OF NEW YORK STATE
TOPIC SUGGESTIONS**

WRITTEN PRESENTATION The paper will consist of a narrative + bibliography + maps + illustrations on a pre-approved topic. The paper must be concise, focused on the approved topic and show the geography behind the subject by incorporating at least one of the five themes of geography as presented in class or by incorporating one or more of the national geography standards and focusing on presenting a NYS-related theme to students at a specific grade. **PLEASE NOTE:** *A required presentation that is turned in late will be penalized one letter grade based on the +/- system.* **IMPORTANT:** *Do not cut and paste text except when using as a quote. Cite all references in correct bibliographic format.*

General

The Geography of _____ County. Using the county web sites, *Moon Handbook* and *I Love New York Travel Guide*, gather information about one county and present a complete view of it. Many of the **topical** headings below can be incorporated into your overview.

Historical Geography

Importance of NYS in the American Revolution
Importance of a particular site in the American Revolution or War of 1812.
Role of the _____ Railroad in the settlement, growth and development of _____.
Role of the _____ Canal in the settlement, growth and development of _____.
Evolution of (a community or city).

Economic Geography

The _____ industry in _____ County or in NYS (dairy/Christmas tree/maple syrup/tourist/agriculture) in _____ County or in _____ section of NYS
St. Lawrence Seaway and NYS
Location of horse farms in NYS (or any other type of agricultural activity)
Winter resorts in the Adirondacks/Catskills/etc
The port of Buffalo or Rochester or Oswego or Albany or NY-NJ
Hydroelectric mini-sites of NYS
Issues of power production and/or consumption
Wind farms of NYS
A specific mineral mined in NYS
Changing/present land use in _____
Land use survey of your neighborhood. (Map it/describe it/analyze changes)
The changing urban function of _____ (town or city) over the last 100 years
The gentrification of _____ (town or city)

Environmental Issues

The effects of acid rainfall
Location of chemical dumps/landfill sites
Pollution and groundwater in _____
Water quality of any lake or river or coastal area
Distribution of a mammal/bird/fish/insect/plant species in NYS
A habitat study

Over>>>

Political Issues

An analysis of voting patterns
Location of a (state, county, international) boundary
Drawing of community, school, electoral, etc. boundaries
Laws, rules, regulations, zoning ordinances

Demographic/Social /Cultural

Distribution of a health/disease/medical problem in NYS
Analysis of data from US Census or NYS Statistical Yearbook
Urbanization/suburbanization in NYS
An analysis of the population make-up of _____ County
Toponymy of NYS place names
Distribution of an ethnic group in NYS
Promote one of your assigned counties as a place to relocate a family.

Physical Geography

Earthquakes and NYS
Hurricanes and NYS
Snow and NYS (including lake-affect snow)
Flooding in _____
Beach erosion on Long Island
Global warming and its potential impact on NYS

Map Analysis

Atlas research - photocopy maps from old and present-day atlases and describe the changes through the years then analyze the reason for the changes found.
An analysis of any NYS topographic map; describe the interrelationship between landscape and land use shown.

Geographic Education

>The pedagogy of geographic learning focusing on presenting a NYS topic.
>A grade-specific lesson plan presenting a particular aspect of the geography of NYS to social studies or earth science students incorporating the national geography standards.
>A grade-specific scripted classroom project for social studies or earth science students on a particular aspect of the geography of NYS incorporating the national geography standards.
>A poster presentation on any particular theme relating to the geography of NYS geared to professionals teaching at a grade-specific level illustrating how to present the content of a subject or theme and expected outcomes

IMPORTANT: Why? How? If? What else? A lesson plan, classroom project or poster presentation requires a descriptive write up that introduces the topic and the reasoning behind presenting it. The lesson plan and project both require detailed instructions how to do it, an answer key (if questions are posed), a list of expected outcomes based on the national geography standard(s) used, and a method of assessment. The bibliography focuses on both the topical material and the methodology used to present the topic.

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