

## THE FIELD NOTEBOOK

Good field techniques include the keeping of a written log or diary that contains observations and impressions. A great deal of information cannot be shown on a map as it is being developed, but this information is important to the development of the final product. Thus, the field notebook contains details that may not be on the map but nonetheless contribute to it. As you work in a field setting you should be doing more than simply drawing lines on an aerial photo to prepare a map or complete a project. It is the information contained in the field notebook that helps you in these interpretations. Remember that a field notebook should be more than a personal record. It should be meaningful and useful to any other scientist who reads it. Develop good personal habits in recording information in your notebook keeping these facts in mind—be neat and orderly in your observations!

### Good habits.

The following information can help you in developing good notebook habits (and will be the basis for the grading of your notebooks!).

1. You should have a table of contents in your notebook, so leave a few pages at the beginning of your notebook.
2. Number each page from the beginning of the notebook.
3. Use a pencil that will not smudge but which is soft enough to be easily readable.
4. Either print your comments or write them neatly.
5. Start each day on a new page with a heading in the notebook as follows:

**Date:** month/day/year

**Name of map site**

**Party:** Names of other people in your group

**Weather**

### Elements of the notebook –

1. Whenever you stop in the field, mark down the time and the location. You can do this in two ways:
  - a. Give a good description of exactly where you are based on the air photo or topo map in your notebook (descriptive), or
  - b. assign each stop a number in your notes and write that same number (*SMALL BUT CLEAR*) on your air photo or topo map (numbered in any logical manner).
2. Describe what you see at each stop using proper geological unit descriptions and symbols. Draw sketches where you can at each stop.
3. At the end of each day in the field, write a brief summary of what you did and what you accomplished. Also try to establish an agenda for the following day in the field so that you are thinking about what you have done and what you need to do.
4. When you leave blank space at the bottom of a page, be sure to cross it out or draw a line through the space until you get to a new “facing” page.

### Figures –

Each figure must have a rough scale, a north arrow (or label east-west, north-south for profiles), a title, and descriptions when needed.

### OTHER IMPORTANT TIPS –

Be neat and consistent in writing notes, you will need to use these notes. If you can't read it, it won't help you. Once you leave the site you will have to rely on your notes for information, write down as much as you need to at each stop, it is always better to write more than less.

Keep in mind that when you do field work in the future, your field notebook may become a legal document. Make sure that someone else can take your notebook into the field, retrace your steps, and see exactly what you saw.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Map Site \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

**General:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Neatness (10)

\_\_\_\_\_ Dates (10)

\_\_\_\_\_ Table of Contents (10)

\_\_\_\_\_ Line to End of Page (10)

\_\_\_\_\_ Page Numbers (10)

**Mechanics:**

Daily:

At each stop:

\_\_\_\_\_ Name of Group Members (10)

\_\_\_\_\_ Location Description (10)

\_\_\_\_\_ Location (10)

\_\_\_\_\_ Time of Notes (10)

\_\_\_\_\_ Weather (10)

\_\_\_\_\_ Measurements (~~Strike/Dip~~) (10)

\_\_\_\_\_ Objectives (10)

\_\_\_\_\_ Observations (10)

\_\_\_\_\_ Summary (10)

\_\_\_\_\_ Interpretations (10)

\_\_\_\_\_ Diagrams/Sketches (10)

**Comments:**