

## How To Write a Great Field Trip Paper for CEE 173A/207A & ESys 103

...brought to you by your devoted TAs

Most of these tips will seem pretty obvious, but they are just ideas that we came up with to help out. We also just want to make sure you know what is expected on the papers.

**What it is:** *two pages typed*, either front and back or *stapled*, to sum up what you learned from and what you thought of the field trip. More specific directions and questions to be answered can be found on each individual field trip handout - read these directions carefully!

### What goes into a good paper:

1. **Read the directions** - For example, if you are asked to write the paper as though its a brief for Barbara Boxer, do that to your best ability and ask Prof. Woodward or one of us if you are unsure about the directions or questions. Also make sure you answer all parts of the questions - it's easy to miss something.
2. **Style, Style, Style** - Even though its only two pages, write it with the same considerations as a longer paper, i.e. grammar, form, content, and style DO matter. It's fine to label different sections of the paper, but try to make the paragraphs/paper seem like a coherent whole even through you'll have a lot of questions to answer.
3. **In general** - Try to write it as through it was, say, a paper for a summer internship that you are giving to your boss. Its only two pages, so it won't be terribly hard to make it good.

### Hints:

1. Read the questions before or during the field trip - it will help you pick out material for your paper from a long day of tours and talks.
2. Taking notes - you'll be getting a lot of information and it'll help to write down the important/interesting stuff.
3. Start in the first few days after the trip - it won't get any easier the longer you wait. Even if you only have time to do a rough draft/outline right after the trip, you'll still have started the paper with the trip fresh in your mind.

If you have anymore questions don't hesitate to ask. Good luck!