

Earth Science

Essay Assignment: What Are the Future Challenges?

Each year, each month, we mark the anniversary of some important event in Science. For example, December 14, 2011, marked the centennial (100th anniversary) of the discovery of the South Pole. On that date, Roald Amundsen, a Norwegian explorer, and his team reached the most inaccessible spot on our planet. He described this as the “ultimate challenge.”

Of course, it was not the “ultimate challenge.” On March 16, 1926, Robert Goddard successfully launched the first liquid fuel-powered rocket. Continued refinements led to such challenges as landing on the Moon and travelling to distant planets.

What are the most important challenges now? In the next fifty years? They need not be geographical. Rather, they could be environmental, economic, health, or in some other area.

Compose a 5-paragraph essay answering the title question. Follow the standard essay format:

Paragraph 1: Introduction and statement of the two challenges you identify

Paragraphs 2 – 4: Build your case about why these are important, and possible solutions to the challenges in an ideal world

Paragraph 5: Summary of your important ideas

You might wish to discuss your ideas with other teachers and students to get additional thoughts. Be sure to write with proper style—grammar, spelling, punctuation.