



Gulf Coast Data Jam 2025/2056

Written Report - Student Guide

Your written report helps tell the story of your data investigation. Think of it as explaining your project to someone who has never seen it before—but is curious and excited to learn!

Important Details

- Maximum length: 10 pages total (including text, graphs, and tables)
- Format: Single-spaced, font size 11 or larger, 1-inch margins
- Reports should be neat, organized, and carefully proofread

1. Title Page

Start with the basics:

- Project title
- Student names and grades
- School name
- No more than 3 students per team

This page lets judges quickly understand who you are and what your project is about.

2. Introduction (1 paragraph)

Introduce your topic as if your reader has never heard of it before.

- What did you study?
- What scientific question did you investigate?
- What did you *generally* discover from the data?

This is a big-picture overview—save the details for later sections.

3. Dataset Description (1 paragraph)

Explain where your data came from and what it includes.

- Who collected the data?
- How, where, and when was it collected?
- What variables are included?
- Why might scientists care about these variables?

Be sure to name the data source (for example: NOAA, UWF, PPBEP, ECUA).

4. Data Representations (Graphs or Charts)

Show your data visually.

- Include at least one graph or chart
- Hand-drawn graphs are okay if they are neat and easy to read
- Always label axes and give each graph a clear title
- Only include data that is relevant to your question

5. Data Trends or Comparisons (1–2 paragraphs)

Describe what your data shows.

- What patterns or trends do you notice?
- Are there similarities or differences between datasets?
- Include basic statistics such as averages, ranges, or variability

Think: *What does the graph tell us at first glance?*

6. Data Interpretation (1–3 paragraphs)

Now explain why your data looks the way it does.

- What environmental or scientific processes might explain the trends?
- Were the results expected or surprising?
- Why is this information important?

Use evidence from your data and connect your explanation to real science.

7. New Questions and Hypotheses (1 paragraph)

Good data always leads to more questions!

- What made you curious while looking at your results?
- What new questions would you want to study next?
- Write at least two new questions or “Maybe…” explanations (hypotheses)

This section shows scientific thinking and curiosity.

8. Explanation of Creative Project (2–5 sentences)

Explain your creative choice.

- Why did you choose this format (video, art, model, etc.)?
- What do you want your audience to learn or feel?

This helps judges understand how your creativity supports your science.

9. Reflection on the Data Jam Experience (2–5 sentences)

Share your experience honestly.

- What was challenging?
- What was fun?
- What did you learn?
- How might you improve Data Jam in the future?
- Could your project be shared with a wider audience?

10. References

Include at least two sources beyond your dataset.

- These may include background research, data explanations, or scientific articles
- Use a consistent citation style (APA, MLA, etc.)

11. Link to Creative Project (if applicable)

If your project is online (YouTube or another platform), include the link.

Gulf Coast Data Jam 2025/26 Report Form

Team Information

Project Title:

School Name:

Name of Dataset(s):

Level of Dataset(s):

Team Advisor's Name(s):

Team Members' Names (First and Last):

All reports must include the following sections, each labeled with its corresponding number and title. You may fill in this document, or create a separate file with the same headings. You must also complete a creative project for your entry to be judged.

- 1. Title** --- with student names, grades, and school (see above)
- 2. Introduction** – background, question, and hypothesis about the data
- 3. Dataset(s) Description** – describes variables and methods used, data source
- 4. Data Representation(s)** – graphs, charts, or other types of data summary
- 5. Data Trend(s) or Comparison(s)** – described, referring to representation(s)
- 6. Data Interpretation** – explanation of why data trends or differences occurred
- 7. New Questions and Hypotheses**
- 8. Explanation of Creative Project**
- 9. Reflection on Data Jam Experience**
- 10. References** – include at least 2 references, properly cited
- 11. Link to YouTube video** (if applicable)