



ASSIGNMENT 1. Hometown Geography

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Due Date: Monday, February 1, 2016

Background: In terms of its climate, culture and physical infrastructure no two places in California are exactly alike. As we study the effects of climate change on the state we will often be forced to make broad generalizations about the entire state or different regions. Before we do so, we will spend some time thinking about specific places. In this assignment, each student will evaluate a different city or town in California. If you grew up in California, you will analyze your hometown. If you grew up outside of the state, choose a town in California that shares its first letter with your hometown (e.g., if you grew up in Boston, you could choose to look at Berkeley, Bakersfield or Bear Valley).

For all of the questions below, please include a bibliography indicating the source of data used.

1. Climate* (2 pts)

Plot average monthly precipitation and mean temperature and note the time period used to calculate the averages. Based on the reading, what climate zone does this fall into?

2. Population* (2 pts)

Plot estimates or census figures for the population of your hometown from the time of its founding to 2050 (at any intervals for which you can find data). Using a different scale on the same plot, include data on the population of California over the same period. For the period between 2015 and 2050, estimate the population on the basis of trends for the town or adjacent region. Include an explanation of how you made your estimates.

3. Economy* (2 pts)

Create a pie chart showing the 5 largest major employers in your town (or the county, if town info is hard to find). Classify these jobs on the basis of economic sector (see examples in lectures 3-4). How does the sector-wide employment in your hometown compare with the rest of California?

4a. Climate Change (1 pt)

Imagine a local newspaper (OK, website or whatever replaces that) from the year 2050. Write a headline and the first paragraph of a story explaining how your hometown is responding to the effects of climate change.

OR

4b. Visit the [Oakland museum](#) and send us a selfie by the big map pointing to your California town! Check out the Friday night specials at the museum!

*You can use any program (e.g., Excel, Google Sheets, etc.) or hand-draw these charts. You can obtain the information from any source (including Wikipedia), but please document your sources!