



GIS Career Awareness Learning Module # 4

Putting It All Together: Our Future with GIS

- **Estimated Time: 60 minutes**
- **Learning Goal:** Students will synthesize what they have learned in the first three GIS Career Learning Modules by exploring how GIS can be a valuable tool for businesses, organizations, and society; and why GIS skills would be worthwhile to have for various careers.
- **Platforms:** PC, Mac, or UNIX.
- **Software Tools Required:** A Word Processor such as Microsoft Word or Word Perfect

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Section 1 – Career Learning Module Final Essay Structure

In your last learning exercise, you will be required to compose a 500-word essay about what you have learned in the first 3 GIS Career Learning Modules and why GIS skills would be valuable to have for careers in various industries. (Note: 500 words is approximately 2 ½ pages of typed double-spaced text or 5 pages handwritten on college-ruled note paper.)

This will actually be easier than you think because you already did most of the work! You will be able to use and copy parts of your completed work from the final essay questions in the previous learning modules (*Section 3 in GIS Career Learning Module 1, Section 6 in GIS Career Learning Module 2, and Section 4 in GIS Career Learning Module 3*).

This section guides you with structuring your essay with an outline. You will first work with the body paragraphs of the essay then, you will add an introduction and a conclusion.

Your general essay structure will consist of the following outline:

Why GIS Skills Would be Valuable to Have for Careers in Various Industries Essay Outline

- I. **Introduction**
(In this paragraph, you will quickly introduce the main idea or argument of this essay followed by what you will present in Paragraphs II through IV below. Remember that the main idea or argument of this essay is, “Why GIS Skills Would be Valuable to Have for Careers in Various Industries.” You can actually use the headings of Paragraphs II through IV below to guide your introduction.)
- II. **The Idea of the Digital Globe and How It Can Help Us**
(In this paragraph, you can use some of your previous work from *Section 3 of Learning Module 1*. You can copy the material, modify it, or add new material as you see fit.)
- III. **GIS Applications in Various Industries and Careers**
(In this paragraph, you can use some of your previous work from *Section 6 of Learning Module 2*. You can copy the material, modify it, or add new material as you see fit.)
- IV. **The Cutting Edge and Future of GIS**
(In this paragraph, you can use some of your previous work from *Section 4 of Learning Module 3*. You can copy the material, modify it, or add new material as you see fit.)
- V. **Why GIS Skills Are Valuable to Have for Careers in Various Industries**
(This is the only completely new stuff that you will have to write for the essay. In this paragraph, you will argue why GIS skills are valuable for employees and employers using supporting ideas from Paragraphs II through IV above. You must support your ideas and arguments.)
- VI. **Conclusion**
(You will quickly restate the main idea or argument of this essay---“Why GIS Skills Would be Valuable to Have for Careers in Various Industries”---followed by a very brief recap of the major ideas and arguments that you presented in Paragraphs II through IV above.)

Okay, now it is time to refine this outline. This will guide you in completing the essay. In these Paragraph sections for Roman numerals II through V, you will be able to write down the major ideas or arguments that you will include in your essay. You should write a sentence or two for each idea or argument you will make under the corresponding paragraphs. Remember to support you arguments or ideas with examples. These examples could come from what you have done in these learning modules, what you have seen or heard about, or what you imagine. Generally, most of your ideas or arguments are acceptable as long as you explain and support them for the reader.

Main Ideas and Arguments for the Body Paragraphs (Paragraphs II through V)

II. **The Idea of the Digital Globe and How It Can Help Us**
(In this paragraph, you can use some of your previous work from *Section 3 of Learning Module 1*. You can copy the material, modify it, or add new material as you see fit.)

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

III. **GIS Applications in Various Industries and Careers**
(In this paragraph, you can use some of your previous work from *Section 6 of Learning Module 2*. You can copy the material, modify it, or add new material as you see fit.)

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

IV. **The Cutting Edge and Future of GIS**

(In this paragraph, you can use some of your previous work from *Section 4 of Learning Module 3*. You can copy the material, modify it, or add new material as you see fit.)

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

V. **Why GIS Skills Are Valuable to Have for Careers in Various Industries**

(This is the only completely new stuff that you will have to write for the essay. In this paragraph, you will argue why GIS skills are valuable for employees and employers using supporting ideas from Paragraphs II through IV above. You must support your ideas and arguments.)

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

Now, that you have filled in the major ideas of what you will argue and discuss in the essay body paragraphs (Paragraphs II through V), you will have more than enough information to compose your 500-word essay!

Using the **entire** outline for Paragraphs I through VI, and the major statements and arguments that you filled in, do your best to compose the essay. Again, remember to support your arguments with examples. The length of the essay should be at least 2 pages typed double-spaced (This is approximately 3 pages written on college-ruled note paper.) Please remember to check your spelling and grammar. Good Luck!

