

design checklist and evaluation criteria

key design questions

- What is the purpose of the map? Who is the audience? What is its intended use?
- What is the context of the map? Is it part of a series, atlas, or newspaper article?
- Are projection and scale appropriate?

title/legend/marginalia

- Is the wording concise and effective?
- Is a subtitle necessary? Is a legend title necessary?
- Are the symbols used on the map the same as the symbols that appear in the legend?

text

- Is the text legible?
- Is the placement of the text balanced and legible?
- Is everything spelled correctly?

figure-ground

- Are features recognized through visual contrast?
- Is the land/water contrast adequate?
- How many hierarchical levels are present?
- Does the hierarchy reflect the purpose of the map?

general layout/visual balance/neatness/white space

- Is the map “lopsided”?
- What is the ratio of the size of the actual map to the size of the page?
- Is there too much “empty space”?
- Are size, shape, and orientation of the map appropriate?
- How quickly is the main message of the map grasped?

use of symbols

- Are the symbols clear and legible?
- Are the point, line, and areal features placed and drawn in a clear and balanced manner?

credits/sources

- Who produced the map? What sources were used, copyrights? What is the date of the data/map?

locator (if applicable)?

- Are inset maps necessary? If so, are they adequate?
- Do the insets help to orient the map reader?

originality

- How interesting is the map? How original its design?

LAB _____

NAME _____

TOTAL POINTS _____

Title/Legend/Marginalia

Text (placement, legibility, spelling)

Figure-Ground

General Layout/Visual Balance/Neatness/White Space

Use of Symbols

Credits/Sources

Locator (if applicable)

Originality (extra)

Other Comments