Chemistry in Real Life

In addition to the work assigned, each student will be required to find an article published during July or August of 2013 that is related to chemistry. The article can be from a newspaper, magazine, or internet source. The article must not be academic in nature. You must choose one that is directed to the general public. Good sources include the weekly Science and Technology sections of the large newspapers such as *The New York Times.* Magazine sources include *Discover*, *Scientific American* and *Popular Science* as well as their websites. The special topics for this year in AP Chemistry will be climatology and planetary science so articles concerning chemistry in these areas will be especially appropriate.

My example will be volcanoes so no one is allowed to do an article about volcanoes.

**Assignment**:

Attach a copy of the article to a written report due on Monday, September 9th

In a written report, students will

* Explain why you chose this article
* Write a short synopsis of the article, including the title, author, and source of the article.
* Discuss the how the article relates to chemistry
  + Be specific with topics
    - For example, if the article is about the formation of volcanoes, discuss the chemical composition of lava, the pressure of gases, etc. Do research if necessary to find the general chemistry
  + The specific topics should be discussed in general terms. If you do not understand it, look for more general information.
    - For example, I would not expect a discussion of all types of lava, just the basic elemental composition. For the gases I would expect a list of common gases emitted by volcanism. *Etc*.
  + Be sure to make all possible links to chemistry
* Discuss how the chemistry is important to the general public (not you personally)
  + For example, the dissolved gases emitted by a volcano can form acid rain which can destroy vegetation down wind.
* Propose a science-related question that was not answered or discussed or well-explained in the article and include a little discussion as to why it would be important to know the answer.
  + For example,
    - How long has the volcano been dormant? (fair question)
    - What makes a dormant volcano active again? (good question)
* Write an appropriate conclusion to your report on the article.