

Helpful Tips for AOS 452 Map Discussions

- 1.** Discussions will begin promptly at 3:45 and end no later than 4:20. Around 3:30, feel free to come up to the front of class and begin preparing your links on the 1411 computer.
- 2.** Make sure to discuss any forecast “busts” for Madison or the current *wxchallenge* city, if necessary. Otherwise, make sure to make reference to your forecast somehow as part of the discussion.
- 3.** Describe each map being used (level, date, time, variables, etc.) and identify the web site being used, if it has not been introduced in map discussions before.
- 4.** Use appropriate, technical terms to describe phenomena and processes. Use the best, appropriate diagnostics to make your point. No need to use more than two diagnostics revealing the same result.
- 5.** Make physical connections, in space and time, between phenomena at the surface (i.e., precipitation, cyclones, etc.) and what you are diagnosing at upper-levels (i.e., a trough, jets, fronts).
- 6.** Lay out a plan for the discussion: what features should the class follow? Use a telescoping approach – focus on the large-scale and drill down to the details, or the reverse – small-scale up. Be systematic with maps chosen and features described.
- 7.** Articulate your plan to the class before you begin your portion of the discussion. You are encouraged to bring notes up to the projector screen with you so that you can stick to your “script”.
- 8.** Limit your focus on one or two features that will affect the weather in Madison, the *wxchallenge* city, or elsewhere (disruptive, high-impact weather event). Trying to discuss too many features will detract from the overall effectiveness of your discussion.