

**MEA 498/598: National Weather Service Student Internship
Week 10 Worksheet – Area Forecast Discussions**

Name _____
Shift _____

Date _____
Mentor _____

The next couple of weeks you will be writing your own mock AFD's. Brandon Vincent put together a nice overview of the Area Forecast Discussion along with some tips and guidelines which are available [here](#). The primary purpose of the AFD product is to provide the meteorological/scientific reasoning behind the forecast. Additionally, the AFD gives us an opportunity to express how confident we are, what could go wrong, alternate scenarios, etc. The AFD is a highly visible product used to convey forecast insight beyond any other NWS products.

- 1) Review the [AFD guidance](#).

- 2) Read the [current AFD](#).

- 3) Ask your mentor for any suggestions or strategies that they use to write the AFD and note them below.

- 4) Work with your mentor to determine the forecast problem of the day and note it below.

- 5) Move to an open AWIPS workstation and independently go through the forecast process to handle the portion of the forecast you and your mentor are working on (near term update, aviation, extended, etc.) Spend about 20 to 30 minutes going through the data on AWIPS, ask your mentor for help or suggestions. Finally, review your thoughts with your mentor to ensure that you are on the right track and that you have a good handle on the situation.

- 6) Have your mentor help you open the current AFD in a text editor and edit it as the RDUWRKAFD product. Trim out the excess sections leaving only the section you are to work on (extended, short term update, aviation, etc.) Independently, write your own mock AFD. This may take 30 or more minutes, but don't worry if it takes awhile at first. Keep in mind the principles that Brandon Vincent and your mentor noted when writing an AFD. After you have finished editing the AFD, let your mentor review it, if the content is good they may use it in the AFD that will be sent out. Print a hardcopy and attach your AFD to this worksheet.