MEA 498/598: National Weather Service Student Internship
Near Term Forecast Worksheet

Name   _____   Date   _____
Shift   _____   Mentor _____

Near Term Forecast:
The Near Term Forecast generally involves the first two periods of the forecast (i.e. today/tonight or the first 24 hours). In this period, we can add significant value to the forecast by comparing observational data to the latest model data/guidance. Important observational data includes (but is not limited to):
● Surface Observations
● RAOBs (12Z / 00Z Upper Air Data)
● Radar
● Satellite
● Wind profilers
● Aircraft Soundings (AMDAR)
● Meso analysis products

As a best practice, forecasters at NWS Raleigh routinely analyze surface/upper air data and monitor the latest upstream trends in radar/satellite imagery. This practice increases situational awareness and serves an important role in the forecast process. Before we begin the forecast, we first have to understand the current state of the atmosphere. For example, what kind of weather is occurring upstream of the area? Why is it occurring?

1) Have your mentor:
● Discuss the most recent surface and upper air analyses. Compare and contrast analyzed features with weather phenomena observed via radar/satellite imagery.

2) How do the current observations compare the to the forecast?
● Open GFE on one CAVE and D2D on another.
● Compare clouds and PoP grids to the observed satellite and radar?
● Compare the current temperature, dew point and winds compare the forecast?
● Can anything be improved

3) Answer the following questions in the space provided below:
● How do the latest observational trends compare with the most recent model data?
● Do the models have a good handle on the current state of the atmosphere?
● Does our forecast and the guidance make sense.

3) Identify the primary forecast problem(s) in the near term period in the space provided below.