**Tip Sheet for Weather Forecasting:**

The weather is constantly being measured all over the world. This data goes into weather maps that you can find on the Internet. These maps show cold and warm fronts, rainfall, cloudiness, and other information you need to make your forecast.

**Warm and Cold Fronts**

* Blue lines are cold fronts and red lines are warm fronts.

Cold Fronts: Often associated with Thunderstorms and cooler temperatures moving into an area.

Warm Fronts: Warmer air mass moving into a region. Typically low clouds associated with this type of fronts. May be light showers.

* High and Low Pressure Systems
  + A blue "H" means a center of high pressure (usually calm, sunny weather).
  + A red "L" means low pressure (which can mean storminess). Most fronts extend from low-pressure centers.

http://eo.ucar.edu/webweather/images2/pressuresymbol.gif

**Air Temperature**

The number is the air temperature in degrees F (for U.S. maps) or degrees C (for other countries). May be expressed by a number or by a color legend.

**Dew Point**

The dew point is a measure of moisture; it shows how much you'd have to cool the air to get a relative humidity of 100 percent. The higher the dew point, the more water vapor there is for producing rain or snow.

**Barometric Pressure**

The number to the upper right of each station is the barometric pressure. Since the pressure goes down with altitude, this reading has been adjusted to show the pressure as if the station were at sea level. The typical sea-level pressure is a little bit more than 1000 millibars. Less than 1000=Low Pressure.

**LIKELIHOOD FOR PRECIPITATION CAN BE PREDICTED FROM UTILIZING ALL OF THE ABOVE DATA.**

* What is the pressure in the regions?
* What fronts will be moving into the region?
* What is the temperature?
* What is the relative humidity/dew point?

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