

CMPSC 580  
Junior Seminar  
Spring 2021

Assignment 6:

## Writing the Introduction



Figure 1: Your introduction section will be written from the ideas of your outline that was prepared during the last assignment. This section will help to inform the reader about what your work is trying to accomplish. In addition, the Introduction section will describe some of the important details of problem area, advantages and disadvantages of solutions and provide some reasoning about why the reader ought to care about the problem.

### The Introduction Section

The Introduction section, mentioned in Figure 1, serves the important task of bringing the reader up-to-date with your research project, its ideas and its goals. In particular, your introduction contains parts addressing the research interest: the *Statement of Problem*, the *Purpose of Research*, and the *Significance of Research*. To facilitate the reader understand the material of your work, whenever possible, try to use concrete examples, tables, flowcharts, technical diagrams and similar visual aids.

### Clone Your Assignment Repository

Today's assignment repository can be found at the below link to a GitHub Classroom repository. Here you will work on your assignment and then push your work to the cloud where the instructor will be able to view your work for grading. Often, there will be files in your assignment repositories

which you are to edit before you submit them by using the below commands for `git`. Note, you will be using this same repository to complete your proposal section by section. You will be adding your sections to the `SeniorThesisProposal.tex` document.

<https://classroom.github.com/a/lP9rBMmB>

To use this link, please follow the steps below.

- Click on the link and accept the assignment
- Once the importing task has completed, click on the created assignment link which will take you to your newly created GitHub repository for this lab,
- Clone this repository (bearing your name) and work locally
- As you are working on your lab, you are to commit and push regularly. The commands are the following. GitHub Actions CI will automatically check that your `LATEX` file builds correctly.

```
- git add -A
- git commit -m 'Your notes about commit here'
- git push
```

- When you are ready to create a release and submit a PDF of a section, you must tag your release using the following commands, replacing my name with your own and changing the version number appropriately.

Note: minor changes to your document would be reflected by incrementing the right-most number in the version by one. Larger changes will alter the middle number and left-most numbers.

```
- git add -A
- git commit -m 'Your notes about commit here'
- git tag senior_thesis_proposal-obonhamcarter-1.0.0
- git push -u origin main --tags
```

Please be sure to read the `README.md` file to help with your push tasks. After you have pushed your work to your repository, please visit the repository the GitHub website (you may have to log-in) to verify that your files were correctly sent.

## Getting Ready to Write

Please visit the writing resources of the following links for discussion and details about each of the sections of your introduction.

- University of Illinois: <https://guides.library.illinois.edu/c.php?g=504643&p=3454882>
- Michigan State University: <https://writing.msu.edu/how-to-write-a-good-introduction/>

Additionally, below are some good writing guides which you may find helpful.

- The Purdue OWL: [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general\\_writing/the\\_writing\\_process/developing\\_an\\_outline/types\\_of\\_outlines.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/the_writing_process/developing_an_outline/types_of_outlines.html)
- <http://writing2.richmond.edu/writing/web/outline.html>

## Part 1: Expanding on your Outline for the Introduction

Before our class session on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April**, you are to write at **least one page of text** for your Introduction section where you follow each point of your outline and then add more detail (at least two or three relevant sentences in clear and meaningful language) to expand and explain the ideas behind each of the points. This step is designed to help build on the points of the outline and to help you being the writing process of the introduction.

As you go from point to point from your outline, please write the expanded text of the ideas in a way that will facilitate your thinking for when you begin writing a draft of the introduction Section. To complete this part, please add your expansion to a new subsection called, *Expanded Outline*, located under the text of your outline in your submitted `SeniorThesisProposal.tex` document.

## Part 2: Peer Review Task

During our class session on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April**, you will participate in another peer reviewing process, where your colleague will peer review a current draft of your expanded Introduction outline. During this process, a reviewer will complete a peer review checklist, included below.

1. The title of the proposal seems appropriate and exciting.
2. At least one page of text in the Introduction section of the senior thesis proposal is included.
3. The introduction section clearly describes the proposed work (\*what\* is being proposed).
4. The introduction section motivates the proposed work (\*why\* do the proposed work and why does it matter) with the help of existing research and includes several references.
5. The section includes introductory and concluding remarks, as appropriate for the section.
6. The ideas in the Introduction section are developed logically and thoroughly.
7. The content presented in the Introduction is technically correct.
8. The transition between paragraphs in the Introduction section is smooth.
9. The overall organization of the section is effective.
10. There are no typographical or grammatical errors in the draft of the text.
11. There is no extraneous text in the document.

As you peer-review the work of your colleague, please use the Google Doc survey at the below link. Please note that in this survey, you are to answer TRUE or FALSE for each of the questions in-blue above. If you respond FALSE for any of the questions, then you are to elaborate on your response in the final question of the survey. This response will also be copy-and-pasted into your colleague's project Issue Tracker to help with the writing process.

Reviewer survey:

<https://forms.gle/1DYAR2T7qdzo3ccq6>

### Deadline of Peer Review Survey

This peer reviewing task is to be completed by the end of class to be able to provide your colleague with enough time to begin working with your suggestions. If you miss class, then it is still your responsibility to locate a class member with whom to work and to complete the survey by the due date.

### Part 3: A Working Draft of the Introduction

By **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April** (after the break), you are to submit a working draft of your introduction where you have incorporated the suggestions of your colleagues into your writing from your expanded outline. Please note, this text will no longer look like an outline since it will have working sections and subsections to assist in the reading. In short, your work will be a body of informative text that will serve as a working-draft of your introduction Section. **When complete, this body of text will amount to about three pages of text.**

### Summary of Deliverables and Tasks

The dates of the below events in bold have been added to the course calendar.

1. Part 1; Due Thursday (8<sup>th</sup> April) in class: **Expanded Outline**
2. Part 2; During Thursday (8<sup>th</sup> April) in class: **Peer Review Task of Expanded Outline and Completion of Reviewer Survey**
3. Part 3; Due Thursday (15<sup>th</sup> April) before 11:59pm: **A Working Draft of your Introduction Section**

### Evaluation

You will receive notices in class with the assignments and the deadlines of each section's deliverable. The failure to complete and submit drafts of each section by the stated due date will result in a reduction of your proposal grade. Failure to participate in peer editing process will result in a failed participation grade for that activity.

Specifically, the grade that a student receives on the senior project proposal will have the following components and percentages:

- **Expanded Outline draft [up to 40%]:** This grade incorporates the quality of the work section where you have incorporated the edits and relevant suggestions of your colleague from peer editing.
- **Peer review [up to 20%]:** This grade incorporates the the effort you show in reviewing the work of another member of your class.
- **Introduction draft [up to 40%]:** A working draft of your introduction where you have incorporated selected suggestions of your peer editing. this body of text will amount to about three pages of text.

## Help?

Please let the instructor know of any questions that you may have. Please use email or make office-hour appointment slots if you would like to discuss an issue.