

**CMPSC 580  
Junior Seminar  
Spring 2021**

**Assignment 5:  
What to Create?**

## Objectives

To use an organized approach to preparing an outline and a draft of your Introduction Section for your proposal. In this work, you will work with others to discuss the flow and direction of your writing in your outline and your Introduction draft.



Figure 1: There will be technical writing in your project proposal. The Introduction Section may perhaps be one of the most important sections in the document since it will describe the research's foundations, significance, motivations, goals and similar details to inform the reader.

## The Outline

Writing a proposal's Introduction Section may be difficult to begin because there are many ideas to include which are to be placed into a limited number of pages. However, with the help of a *map* of ideas and knowledge of how to place them in the text, writing an effective proposal becomes more simple and manageable.

An outline for a piece of writing formally arranges and develops ideas in a body of text. The outline serves as the scaffolding-structure to help writers plan their writing task and to help them determine the best placement of the necessary ideas and concepts of the written work to inform the reader. Before putting text on the page, the writer's outline helps to plan the arguments, categorize the main points, add definitions where necessary, organize the paragraphs by a logical flow, and to be sure that each and all paragraphs and sections can be fully developed in the text without undesired repetition. In addition, the flow of ideas in the written work should be evident from the outline which is to be used extensively during the writing process.

The introduction of your ideas is to be done in a way that allows the concepts of one idea to build on to another, or to allow one idea to support the introduction of another. Plan-out how each of the main elements of your work are to be introduced (i.e., software, algorithms, hardware and other resources) and then consider their order of appearance in your discussion. A well-written and intelligent outline will provide the writer with the map of writing that serves to inform the writing strategy by providing an overview of the ideas in light of their contexts. Once this overview

has been found to be acceptable to the writer, then the task of putting words on the page may begin. You are invited to follow the readings at the following links to learn more about effective outlines.

- 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/wweb/outline.html>

## 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.

## Part1: Due next class; your outline

In this assignment, you are to write an effective outline for your Introduction section which will be reviewed by your peer during our next class session. Each section in the proposal document should include an introductory and concluding remarks and logically elaborate on various topics by making specific points using supporting evidence whenever appropriate. An outline template to help you develop a roadmap for writing each section is included below, where “...” indicates that there should be a statement or descriptive text inserted.

I. Introduction ...

II. Body of the outline

Topic A ...

Point 1 ...

a. Supporting evidence ...

b. Supporting evidence ...

Point 2 ...

a. Supporting evidence ...

b. Supporting evidence ...

Topic B ...

Point 1 ...

a. Supporting evidence ...

b. Supporting evidence ...

and so on

## Part 2: During next class, peer-review activity

During our class session, you will participate in the peer reviewing process where you and a colleague will peer review each other's developed outline. During this process, as a reviewer, you will complete a peer review checklist, included below.

1. The title of the proposal seems appropriate and exciting.
2. The outline covers the Introduction section of a computer science senior thesis proposal.
3. The outline includes a main idea.
4. The outline includes a list of the topics and major points that support the main idea.
5. The outline includes supporting arguments and evidence for each topic or point.
6. The outline includes concluding ideas.
7. The writing plan for the Introduction section has a logical flow.

To complete this task, you will be using the ISSUE TRACKER of your colleagues' GitHub repository. In the issue tracker, you should be able to leave an issue (a descriptive message) in the repository for the owner. Here you will outline your responses to the above checks. Please note, if you are unable to leave an issue, then the owner of the repository may need to give you security access to the repository (i.e., adding collaborators). A search of GitHub's documentation about how to give access to others will provide more information about how this is done. Please see your TL's or Instructor with any questions.

## Part 3: During Next Lab, prepare a lightning talk to describe how you organized your outline.

When writing, it is very likely that any challenges that you encountered were also encountered by your colleagues. This lightning talk is designed to help the members of class share the organization of your outline and to offer some discussion of what you plan to include in your introduction and its over-all flow. Here you have up to three slides to showcase your outline in three minutes or less.

## Summary of Deliverables and Tasks

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

1. Part 1; Due Tuesday (30<sup>th</sup> March) in class: **a draft of your Introduction outline**
2. Part 2; During Tuesday (30<sup>th</sup> March) in class: **begin peer review session of your outline**
3. Part 2; Due Thursday (1<sup>st</sup> April) in class: **a working outline, incorporating peer review input**

4. Part 3; During Tuesday Lab session (30<sup>th</sup> March): **a lightning talk to describe your outline**
5. During the class on Thursday (1<sup>st</sup> April): We will begin writing the Introduction Section from the outline. *Note: Assignment 6 will be given on this day.*

## 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:

- **Outline draft [up to 60%]:** 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 40%]:** This grade incorporates the the effort you show in reviewing the work of another member of your class.
- **Lightning Talk [A check-mark grade]**