IRP tutorial 2 (week 4)

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11/02/2015

Evaluating example IRPs and using them as the basis for evaluating own proposals

Big-picture goals of this tutorial:
1. Students will be able to *understand what makes a "good" example good, and a "bad" example bad*. What are the key ingredients, or the missing ingredients?
2. Students will be able to identify *which* parts of the example(s) fulfil/partially fulfil different parts of the assessment criteria discussed in week 1,
3. Students will be able to extract the "chain" or steps of the argument in the good example

Today, we are going to evaluate three examples (two bad and a good one) from prior students to see how they try to describe the work, and how they try to convince the reader about.

1. **Recap: proposal structure**
- Title
- Abstract
- Motivation
- Background
- Methods
- Evaluation
- Output
- Workplan
- Back-up plan (optional)

2. *Start with bad proposals and ask students the following questions:*

General characteristics of paper
- Is the tone/style appropriate for the project proposal?
- Well structured?

Background and motivation
- Is there adequate background information to understand the problem and the proposed solution?
- Were key terms and definitions given for the reader?
- What type of claims does the student make...
  - About this research area as a whole?
  - About prior attempts to solve the research question?
- Are the claims supported with evidence (in the form of research)?
- Can you understand, overall, what the student's area of research is and what work the student plans to do?
- Does the student convince you that the work is important theoretically and/or practically?

Research Questions and hypotheses
- Could you locate and understand her identification of the research question and "the

problem"?

Methods and implementation
- Is the proposed methodology clearly stated?
- Are the sub-goals clearly listed?

Evaluation and "success"
- Could you locate and understand the evaluation methods/metrics/ definitions of success?

3. **Go through proposals more thoroughly**

4. **Reference managing**

- Mendeley
- Zotero
- Docear
- Readcube
- Papers3

5. **Latex**

- How many are/have been using it?
- Consider using it
- Templates can be found on "latextemplates.com".
- Happy to provide source code for my proposal to be used as a starting point
- Latex vs word
  - Takes some time to pick up (just a day or two)
  - Huge community and support
  - Online collaborative editing tools
  - Many advantages
  - Can't think of any disadvantages
  - (I much much prefer it and almost exclusively use it)