Explain in detail your document's development from planning to finish, describing your challenges, how you overcame them, and what you learned.

Planning

I wanted to choose a topic which hit close to home for me. Ice melt, something that has affected my family in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan every year, has always been something I've cared deeply about. Ice has a profound impact on the environment and those impacts are felt worse and worse every year. I planned on writing my white paper to Greenpeace, an environmental conservation organization in charge of putting climate control policies into place.

First Draft (for peer editing)

I used a very general, basic outline of text/images for my first draft. My formatting was not necessarily bad, but nothing was particularly intentional. I still applied my knowledge about headers and diction when forming my first draft, but I did not focus on anything to make my white paper eye catching.

Second Draft (for your packet)

Unfortunately I received no feedback from my peers. I took my first draft and gave it a complete overhaul. I improved my diction, sentence structure, and overall problem/solution. Another thing that I focused on was making my paper catch the readers eye and be different. I chose to use a background color that would represent an 'icy' climate and use text that was not too invisible, but also helped me to make headers and images really pop out. I really enjoyed this project.

Final Draft (for your portfolio)

My final draft for my portfolio was a lot of expansion, restructuring, and techniques to make the flow fit the project guidelines better. I worked to mark each of my sections with a main header, splitting the other sections off as subsets of the larger header. I wanted to make the "problem," section clear, the "solution," section clear, and the "how the solution solves the problem," section clear. I also eliminated the use of some images that were not contributing. One thing I learned from revising my instruction packet is that unless an image has a concrete use (which they did for the instructions), do not use images as a decoration. I learned how to -effectively- use many techniques in this project and worked to cut down a lot of unneeded features in order to make the document flow better.