

# USC Viterbi School of Engineering

## Project Part 1

### Goals

The purpose of this assignment is to plan your user study for the term, which you will conduct, and explore possible research questions that could potentially be answered by analyzing the data.

This homework is Part 1 of a class project that you will do in this class, consisting of a total of 3 assignments.

### Assignment

Complete this assignment in a word document, with sections that correspond to the requirements below. Then submit it on Blackboard.

Write a short paper (3 pages maximum) addressing the following points (200 points):

1. A short summary (1/2 page to 1 page) of:
  - a. Your interests,
  - b. The reasons why you choose your current degree and major,
  - c. The reasons why you decided to take this class,
  - d. Your personal ambitions to change the world, and
  - e. The reasons why you are interested in the topic you have chosen for your project.
  - f. Show me a screenshot of your CITI certification for human subjects research.
2. Sketch out the plan for the user study that you will conduct this term, including details such as:
  - a. What variables are you going to collect?
  - b. What design is your study (experimental vs. correlational, if experimental, what factors are between subjects vs. within subjects)?
  - c. Given those answers, out of those variables which are your IV(s) and DV(s)?
  - d. What are the operational definitions going to be for your IV(s) and DV(s)? (ie how are you going to measure or manipulate the variables)?
  - e. What is your population? How are you going to get participants from that population? How many are you planning to recruit for the study?
3. Sketch out your plan for analysis:
  - a. State your research question(s), and discuss how it could be answered by analyzing the data that you listed in the previous question. That is, affirm for me that your research question is answerable using the data you will collect.
  - b. Describe in your own words what kinds of analysis could be done with the data to answer each question. Be specific about what analysis -within null hypothesis significance testing- you would use and why.

**PLEASE use these numbers and letters to outline your project report. That is do not just write one giant block of text, use the bullet points noted above. *However, use full sentences and not phrases or incomplete sentences.***

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### IMPORTANT NOTES

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Section 11, Behavior Violating University Standards <https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

A number of USC’s schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the American Language Institute <http://dornsife.usc.edu/alj>, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students.

For more information, see the class syllabus and the USC web site.