



185 Final Project

(Also covers Project Proposal and Document Specification)

Project Proposal

- A one-page document describing:
 - What is your paper going to be about?
 - What is its purpose?
 - Who is its intended audience?
- (Note: you may change your paper topic after submitting a Project Proposal, but you must submit a new Project Proposal.)

Document Specification

I. Introduction

- State the topic of your Final Project
- State the purpose and intended audience of your final project.
- Does not need to be the full introduction of your Final Project.
 - But this can help focus your research.

Document Specification

2. Technical Discussion Outline

- Should address major points
- Organize your points of interest

3. Proposed Research

- List research sources
 - Exact sources, when possible
 - Otherwise, general sources you plan to investigate

4. Indicate your chosen style guide.

(Length: typically 2-3 pages, much of this in outline form)

Document Specification

- Purpose:
 - Economy of effort
 - Input from instructors and peers can focus your efforts before you do unnecessary work
 - Work planning
 - Helps in establishing a clear writing schedule
 - You' ll know what you need to research before it' s too late to research it
 - Improved Organization

Final Project:

What sort of article is this?

- Thesis chapter?
 - If so, present it with enough information to be an independent paper.
- Journal article for publication?
 - Consider what journal
 - Tailor style to journal
- Project report?
 - Who are you reporting to?
 - Are you recording information or drawing specific conclusions?
- Tutorial?
 - What level is the audience?

Past Final Projects:

- Single Cycle CPU Simulator.
- The Complete Guide to the Polymerase Chain Reaction.
- Graphic User Interface Design for Beginners.
- Collision Detection for Gaming Applications.
- Networked Application Frameworks.
- Reconfigurable Reverse Telemetry System for Retinal Prosthesis.

Final Project – requirements

- Length: 15-20 pages, double spaced
 - This assumes a reasonable number of figures
 - If you're using many figures, or particularly large figures, increase your length appropriately
- Cover page: All projects should include a cover page listing:
 - A summary of your topic
 - Your intended audience
 - Your chosen style guide

Key elements:

(Note: the need for “situational” sections depend on the nature of your project.)

- Abstract (situational)
- Introduction
- Materials and Methods (situational)
- Results (situational)
- Discussion
- Conclusion

Other elements

- Visual aids (recommended)
- Table of contents (situational)
- Index (situational)
- Glossary (situational)
- Appendices (situational)
 - Supportive, but nonessential information.
- Citations (required)



In short...

- **Front Matter**

- **Introduction**

- Abstract (if necessary)
 - Materials and Methods (if necessary)
 - Table of Contents (if necessary)

- **Middle Part**

- **Discussion**

- Results (if necessary)
 - Visual Aids (if necessary)

- **The End**

- **Conclusion**

- Glossary (if necessary)
 - Index (if necessary)

- **Works Cited**

Foregrounding – major findings

- Can be present in your:
 - Title
 - Abstract
 - Purpose statement (in introduction, typically)
 - Key visual aids
 - Informative section headings

Abstract

- Used as screening device
 - Is this the article the reader is looking for?
- Used as stand-alone text
 - Provides simple, high level information
 - Reader may or may not return later
- Provides preview of article
- Facilitates indexing
 - Advises librarians, record-keepers
 - Should have keywords for automated retrieval



Introduction

- Identifies audience
- Provides background
- Explains problem/thesis
- Sets style or tone

Discussion

- Typically, the bulk of the writing.
- What are the implications of your results?
- Do they confirm or refute others' observations?
- What are the contributions to your field?
 - New hypotheses?
 - Proposed future research?
 - Practical applications?

Conclusion

- Can mirror introduction, but key differences:
 - Can assume a higher level understanding.
 - Not the place for background information.
 - Can build on the data/results already presented.
- Can ask parting questions, or suggest further research.

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- **Any questions?**