**Title**

This should be specific, concise and descriptive of your project.

**Abstract**

Maximum of 200 words. This should provide a complete overview of the paper - its background/niche, its purpose, the methods used and its most important findings so far/most significant results you hope for. Highlight what's unique/interesting about your project.

This must be text-only and self-contained i.e. no references, footnotes, equations etc.

**Keywords**

Choose 3-5 keywords that show what the most important ideas within your work are.

**Introduction**

This is where you outline the context and motivation for your project.

* What is the general state of the field you're working in?
* What gap is your project aiming to fill?
* What problem is it aiming to solve?
* What is its novel contribution? What is 'new and interesting' about it?
* Why is this project interesting/important/worth doing?

You need to state the objectives of the project (this is usually at the end of the introduction, leading into the Background).

**Background**

This is your literature review. Here you need to show that you have done your reading and understand the key ideas that are important to your project, any discussions/controversies/arguments that are ongoing in the field, and how these apply to your project.

Do not simply give a dry factual account of what other people have done. Engage with their work - cross-reference it to other works that are similar/different. *What do you think about it?*

**Under no circumstances should you EVER copy and paste from any source without accreditation. This needs to be *your* work.**

Quoting a source, referencing it properly in the bibliography and discussing it is good academic practice. Copying and pasting a source without reference and passing it off as your own thoughts/work is not. If you are found to have done this - this is **plagiarism**. The university doesn't just take a dim view of it - you stand to forfeit the whole module (or more) if found plagiarising. So just don't do it!

**Methods**

Here you will describe:

* The methods you have used in this project.
  + Make sure you explain any ambiguous terminology. e.g. if there are several forms/variations of the method/library you are using, make it clear which one you are using.
* How you have implemented these in your project.
  + A chronological step-by-step walk-through can often be helpful here, although it can be difficult in some cases. Regardless, you should at least be able to describe the iterations you have gone through with your methods so far.
  + Make it clear what you've done, and how you did it. Show how you got your results.

No doubt for some of you, the project changed significantly due to feedback from the previous hand-ins, or discussions with your supervisor etc.. This is where you should account for how the project has changed since it's outset and give reasons why.

**Results**

Here you will describe the results of the project. This will vary vastly from project to project. An appropriate format should be discussed before-hand with your supervisor.

e.g.:

* For more data-oriented/algorithm-bulding focused projects this will be the results of your analysis and/or the data generated etc.
* For research focused projects, this will be what you have found out so far in your research i.e. the results of your tests/experiments.
* For more user-focused projects (apps/games etc.), this will be how much progress you've made in building your software and the results of the user-testing you have done.
  + You will want to relate and discuss the implications for the feedback you have received (you have been testing this and getting feedback regularly, haven't you?).

**Discussion**

This section is for analysing what you've described in the results section. This is where you will relate your results to your background reading/introduction, and make clear where these results sit within your field.

* What do these results *mean* within this project?
* What do these results *mean* within the broader literature/field?
  + How do they compare? Do they support or contradict other people's work?
  + How do your results fit in with similar work? How does it add and/or challenge previous work?
* If your project changed significantly in its focus/direction, this may also be a place to discuss this if appropriate (discuss with your supervisor).

**Limitations and Future Works**

Here you will acknowledge the inevitable limitations of the project.

Acknowledging limitations does not mean that your work means nothing! It's merely being honest about what your work can and cannot prove/establish/say, and showing that you understand this.

Off the back of that, you could use some of those observations to suggest next steps in this line of enquiry.

* What would the logical next steps for this project be?
* If you were going to develop this further, what would you do?
* What potential other routes of investigation might be opened up by this work?

**Conclusion**

This is where you give a brief summary of everything that's come before, and highlight the main takeaways from this work.

You want to try and make this 'punchy' and end on a strong note.

**Bibliography**

All your references should go here.

Suggested citation style is APA or Harvard. This is commonly available in all citation tools (of particular note - Zotero, which is free and open-source). You may use others (such as IEEE or ACM).

The key concern is that your formatting is **consistent** throughout your document. Choose one style (e.g. from just above) and stick with it.

* Introduction
* Background (literature review)
* Methods
* Results
* Discussion
* Limitations and future works
* Conclusion
* Bibliography