

Writing Assignment 1: Project Proposal

Due: Sunday 9/11/16 at 11:59PM

For this assignment you will write a short proposal for your senior design project. This will be modeled after the introductory summary page in a grant proposal made to the National Science Foundation's Small Business Innovation Research / Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) program. This is a common way for small companies to get funding from the government to develop cutting edge products (like your senior design projects!).

You should convince the reader that your project solves an important problem, overcomes difficult technical challenges, and will improve the world in some way. The reader should feel that you understand the problem area and have some interesting ideas for solving the problem. Only then will they give you the money!

NSF Project Summary

You should do some background reading to find out what the requirements for an NSF summary page are. Since we are getting you ready for the real world, we are not going to give you detailed criteria for these assignments; you must learn to find out what you need to do on your own. Here is the NSF call for proposals page (<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2016/nsf16554/nsf16554.htm>) that describes what they expect. That document describes the entire proposal process—you just need to find the sections talking about the summary page. If you do not follow the NSF's directions when you submit a proposal, it will be immediately rejected. Expect something similar for your assignment here...

To be clear, you only need to write the maximum 1 page **Project Summary**, not an entire 15 page NSF proposal!

Submission

Write your Project Summary **in a Google Document**.

You must submit your assignment as follows:

- Share the document with the writing TA Alan Montroso (<mailto:amontroso@gwmail.gwu.edu>) and Prof. Wood (<mailto:timwood@gwu.edu>)
- Print a hard copy and bring it to class on Tuesday.

Two years ago we used this grading rubric (<https://capstone.cs.gwu.edu/2015/lib/exe/fetch.php/writing-1-rubric.pdf>). We may adjust this slightly as some of the NSF requirements have changed since that time.