[Title in Title Case]

This is a <u>basic template</u> for a paper assignment. Note that the format of this template is simple in comparison to other formats like MLA, APA, etc.; we will discuss these other formats later in the semester.

The format of this <u>basic template</u> is specified below:

Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt

Spacing: Double-spaced

Margins: 1 inch, all sides

Header: Last name in all caps, followed by page number, e.g. STARR 1

First page: Title in title case at the top → blank line → start of paragraph 1

If you include an image, please format it as follows:
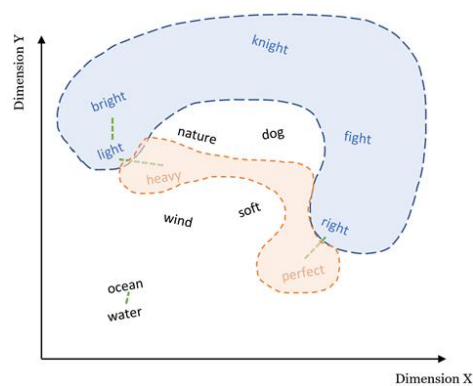

Figure 1: A brief caption that explains your figure. The caption text should be in size 10 font.

Note that the figure is centered & numbered.

And this is what a second page would look like. I understand that this is a rather unexciting aesthetic, but I want your ideas and language to captivate the reader, not the format.

Another acceptable format is the default LaTeX template on Overleaf. LaTeX is a typesetting tool that is commonly used to write papers in the sciences. Contrary to Word & Google Docs, which show you what your paper will look like as you type it (a.k.a WYSIWYG, or "What you see is what you get"), LaTeX is written in plain text with various functional tags. Once you're ready, you "compile" your paper to see the polished, formatted paper.

That certainly sounds like extra work, so why LaTeX? A few reasons include:

- LaTeX has a "math mode", which makes formatting mathematical equations of any kind *much* simpler than typing them in Word or Google Docs
- It's been around forever, so there are a *ton* of constructed templates (that you can also customize to your liking!).
- LaTeX automatically numbers your figures/tables/sections/subsections, meaning you don't have any errant references to sections.
- The citation and reference process is handled much smoother.

There are many more, but I'll save those for another time.

A basic tutorial for using LaTeX in Overleaf can be found here; countless other tutorials can be found online, often for specific disciplines (aka "LaTeX for Linguists", "LaTeX for Mathematics", etc.) I encourage students who are particularly interested in research in the social, natural, and engineering sciences to become familiar with LaTeX. **Knowledge and use of LaTeX is _not_ required for this course**, but it may prove useful for you in the long-term.