Preflight document for [project title]

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## What are you trying to do? Articulate your objectives using words that would be familiar to someone who had taken an undergraduate class in the topic.

## Who cares? If you’re successful, what difference will it make?

## How is it done today, and what are the limits of current practice?

## What’s new in your approach and why do you think it will be successful?

## What is the best case scenario hypothetical result? Try to be as specific as possible. Use your imagination!

## What are the potential bad outcomes? Any overall concerns here?

## Is there pre-existing work/code that could be leveraged to explore the potential for bad outcomes? To do proof-of-concept investigation to get a first-pass answer for the underlying scientific question?

## Are there any other categorically different approaches that could be applied here?

## If this is a methods project, what methods will you compare to? Can you get them running before writing new code?

## What data will you use? Are there appropriate hold-out sets?

## Is it possible that better data would make this project irrelevant?

## Sketch the approach, broken down into steps, with expected amounts of time and intermediate steps for each.

### Stage 1 (X months):

#### How do we decide to move onto the next stage?