

Assignment 2: Cross-Pollination

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*Complete this assignment with your assigned research group. This assignment is due on **Friday, October 2, 2006**.*

1 Purpose of this Assignment

The purpose of this assignment is to encourage *cross-pollination* of ideas across research areas. Many great research ideas involve applying concepts or techniques from one area to another. This assignment will help you both learn about research in other areas and experiment with combining ideas from your research area with those from other areas to come up with new ideas.

2 Your Task

For each of the two research papers you selected in the first assignment, you should find a paper from another research area and come up with a possible research topic that involves the combination of the ideas from the two research areas. Each paper must be matched with a different research area.

This assignment involves the following two tasks:

1. Compose a research proposal for each of the two new ideas. Your research proposal should be a 1-page description of the problem that answers the following questions: (1) why the problem you are proposing to solve is important; (2) Why the combination of the two ideas makes sense; and (3) How you might go about solving the problem you propose.
2. Prepare a talk on one of your ideas that address the questions above.