Dear professor,  
  
   
  
Sorry to bother you at such a terrible time, but I’ve been shaking since I knew my project 1 and 2 scores. I think they are really unfair.  
  
   
  
I'm Yuru Liu, a student in VE401, and an ECE sophomore. I’m in Project Group 9 for both projects 1 and 2. Our projects get 7.5 and 6.5 points respectively, approximately 2 lows.  
  
   
  
I can’t understand why we get such low scores, because we have fulfilled all the tasks in proper approaches.  
  
  
  
I want to speak for our projects in below, and here’re comparisons of the rubric and our report:  
  
   
  
Form  
Rubric: Form (3 points): Does the report contain essential elements, such as a cover page (with title, date, list of authors), a synopsis (abstract giving the main conclusions of the project),  
  
   
  
Report: Yes, and because of the page limit, we combine cover page and abstract(as you mentioned in WeChat group)  
  
   
  
Rubric: table of contents, clear section headings, introduction, a clear division into sections, and appendices with informative titles and bibliography (if applicable)?  
  
   
  
Report: Yes, our heads are clean, and we have in-text and reference in the IEEE style.  
  
   
  
Rubric:  
  
Are the pages numbered? Are the text and formulas composed in a unified font? Are all figures (graphs and images) clearly labeled with an identifiable source?  
  
   
  
Report: Yes, we have headers with numbers and group numbers. And we do label all the figures. Although some of the font sizes are small, like figure 4 and 5 in project 2(because labels are just months and weekdays, and we assume the audience could understand that)  
  
   
  
PS: I don’t mean to offend, but several rubrics seem to be not clear and not consistent. For example, as you mentioned in the WeChat group, some groups don’t have a title, and you don’t deduct points; while some groups have small font sizes, you do deduct them.  
  
   
  
I don't think that's reasonable. The point is, in the rubric, you didn’t make it clear about font size, thus students didn't pay attention to it; however, for the title, which everyone would pay attention to and DO know that they need to have a decent title, but you don’t punish that on the contrary.  
  
   
  
Language  
Rubric: Is the style of English appropriate for a technical report? Do not treat the project as an assignment and simply number your results like part-exercises. Your text should be a single, coherent whole. The text should be a pleasant read for anyone wanting to find out about the subject matter.  
  
   
  
This part is subjective, but I do believe we at least have little grammar and orthography errors. Meanwhile, I took part in MCM(Mathematical Contest in Modeling) in March as the writer of a team of three, and we won Meritorious Winner (top 8%). And I was VY100 TA in 2019 Fall. I don’t mean to “prove” how “professional” I am, but it does astonish me that we had such low scores.  
  
   
  
Rubric: Content (9 points): Are the mathematical and statistical methods and deductions clearly exhibited and easy to follow? Are the conclusions well-supported by the mathematical analysis? It is important to not just copy calculations from elsewhere but to fully make them your own, adding details and comments where necessary.  
  
For project 1, we introduced the Mersenne Twister Algorithm, and how it initializes generator, extract number, and temper numbers. We found out which functions might be used to obtain (generate) pseudo-random numbers and how to determine if a generator of pseudo-random number is sufficiently “random-looking”, and we also analyzed its flaws.  
  
For project 2, we DID complete all 9 tasks. My timing software records that I spent 1110 mins on that project, and I believe my teammates also spared no effort on this project. All of us worked on all 9 tasks independently, and we discussed finding the optimal approach for each task and write it on the report. We also divided these 9 tasks into different divisions for better flow.  
  
  
  
I’ve studied very hard this term, just to earn little advantage. I didn't go anywhere in my spring break, to prepare for my final. While I got 21.5(q2=22) in the midterm, I got 21(q3=19, q2=15.5) in the final. I'm an average student, but I've tried my best. And my disadvantage in these 2 projects would definitely surpass the advantage of my final, which I sacrificed my vacation to fight for a better score.  
  
Dear professor, I earnestly request you, at my deepest sadness, to read our projects again.  Because we both don't want to waste my hard work during the whole semester.  
  
Thanks for your patience to read this long and boring letter, and whatever the result is, I do believe you are the best math professor I've met in JI so far and wish you and your families the best.  
  
  
  
Best,  
  
Yuru