185 Final Project
(Also covers Project Proposal and Document Specification)
Project Proposal

- A one-page document describing:
  - What is your paper going to be about?
  - What is its purpose?
  - Who is its intended audience?

(Note: you may change your paper topic after submitting a Project Proposal, but you must submit a new Project Proposal.)
1. Introduction

- State the topic of your Final Project
- State the purpose and intended audience of your final project.
- Does not need to be the full introduction of your Final Project.
  - But this can help focus your research.
2. Technical Discussion Outline
   - Should address major points
   - Organize your points of interest

3. Proposed Research
   - List research sources
     - Exact sources, when possible
     - Otherwise, general sources you plan to investigate

4. Indicate your chosen style guide.
   (Length: typically 2-3 pages, much of this in outline form)
Document Specification

**Purpose:**

- **Economy of effort**
  - Input from instructors and peers can focus your efforts before you do unnecessary work

- **Work planning**
  - Helps in establishing a clear writing schedule
  - You’ll know what you need to research before it’s too late to research it

- **Improved Organization**
Final Project:
What sort of article is this?

- Thesis chapter?
  - If so, present it with enough information to be an independent paper.

- Journal article for publication?
  - Consider what journal
  - Tailor style to journal

- Project report?
  - Who are you reporting to?
  - Are you recording information or drawing specific conclusions?

- Tutorial?
  - What level is the audience?
Past Final Projects:

- Single Cycle CPU Simulator.
- The Complete Guide to the Polymerase Chain Reaction.
- Graphic User Interface Design for Beginners.
- Collision Detection for Gaming Applications.
- Networked Application Frameworks.
- Reconfigurable Reverse Telemetry System for Retinal Prosthesis.
Final Project – requirements

- Length: 15-20 pages, double spaced
  - This assumes a reasonable number of figures
  - If you’re using many figures, or particularly large figures, increase your length appropriately

- Cover page: All projects should include a cover page listing:
  - A summary of your topic
  - Your intended audience
  - Your chosen style guide
Key elements:

(Note: the need for “situational” sections depend on the nature of your project.)

- Abstract (situational)
- Introduction
- Materials and Methods (situational)
- Results (situational)
- Discussion
- Conclusion
Other elements

- Visual aids (recommended)
- Table of contents (situational)
- Index (situational)
- Glossary (situational)
- Appendices (situational)
  - Supportive, but nonessential information.
- Citations (required)
In short...

- Front Matter
  - Introduction
    - Abstract (if necessary)
    - Materials and Methods (if necessary)
    - Table of Contents (if necessary)

- Middle Part
  - Discussion
    - Results (if necessary)
    - Visual Aids (if necessary)

- The End
  - Conclusion
    - Glossary (if necessary)
    - Index (if necessary)
  - Works Cited
Foregrounding – major findings

- Can be present in your:
  - Title
  - Abstract
  - Purpose statement (in introduction, typically)
  - Key visual aids
  - Informative section headings
Abstract

- Used as screening device
  - Is this the article the reader is looking for?
- Used as stand-alone text
  - Provides simple, high level information
  - Reader may or may not return later
- Provides preview of article
- Facilitates indexing
  - Advises librarians, record-keepers
  - Should have keywords for automated retrieval
Introduction

- Identifies audience
- Provides background
- Explains problem/thesis
- Sets style or tone
Discussion

- Typically, the bulk of the writing.
- What are the implications of your results?
- Do they confirm or refute others’ observations?
- What are the contributions to your field?
  - New hypotheses?
  - Proposed future research?
  - Practical applications?
Conclusion

• Can mirror introduction, but key differences:
  ◦ Can assume a higher level understanding.
  ◦ Not the place for background information.
  ◦ Can build on the data/results already presented.

• Can ask parting questions, or suggest further research.
• Any questions?