

Suggestions for the Paper Proposals, CSC 300
Clark S. Turner
Spring 2006

Here is a bare minimum outline:

1. Cover page (with Title, your name, date, course number, optionally the abstract.)
2. Abstract (short take on purpose and result. Basic facts, issue, your way to resolve it and mention your result. Keep to one or two short paragraphs.)
3. Known facts (the current state of the art in your area of interest. Include citations. Use reputable sources. Wikipedia is not such a source.)
4. The issue of concern to you (keep it short and simple. What is the issue that needs attention? It must be narrowly focused and understandable. Avoid compound issues.)
5. Plan of attack and one liner summaries of the basic arguments you plan to cover. (Include major arguments made and cite to the sources. Cover more than one view of the situation, opposing arguments are important to supporting your synthesis.)
6. Rich annotated bibliography. Annotations are a few sentences of summary of the main points of the source and its relevance to your topic. (get at least 5 "real" resources – not mere web resources)

Mechanics of the paper you will eventually produce from this proposal:

20 pages (not including title, table of contents, bibliography) or more, double spaced. Quality is what I'm after. "Good" quality is about clarity of writing, proper citations (when you state a "known fact" I need to know whether to depend on its basic truth), well structured arguments and counter arguments. Detail tradeoffs, cover weaknesses and strengths of YOUR arguments as well as others. Originality of analysis is important (this does not mean brand new ideas, it can be a "new" combination of ideas, a "new" insight on commonly discussed ideas and even a "new" application of well known solutions from another domain.) A mere "report" about factual situations, arguments and counter arguments will receive a failing grade. Your creative part of the paper, the analysis, will account for half the grade in the end. Note that your 10 minute presentation will also come from this research (the topic is the same, the presentation changes from paper to speech and slides.)