

Term Paper Assignment

Write an Analytical Research Paper

CS 3398 Spring 2013

Instructor: Jill Seaman

Due: Friday 3/1/2013, 5:00 pm (submit via Assignments tool in TRACS)

Assignment: Write an analytical paper about a problem in Software Engineering.

Purpose of the Paper: To provide the reader with a view of solutions to a given software engineering problem that is well organized and supported. The paper should explain the main problem and why it is important. It should summarize the various existing approaches, methods, and/or practices for resolving the problem. It should compare and evaluate these approaches and also describe future directions or possible improvements.

Requirements:

- 2400-2800 words (not including Title page or References), double-spaced.
- Font: Times New Roman, 12 point.
- A minimum of 5 sources, at least 2 from scholarly publications or technical journals. You may find articles in books, journals from the library, on-line, or other sources.

Format: Your paper should be structured as follows:

- Title page
- Abstract (a summary of the paper, write this last)
- Intro (explain the problem and its importance, give necessary background)
- Body
 - Present and explain the various approaches/solutions
 - Compare the various approaches, possible improvements, future directions
- Conclusion (summarize your conclusions)
- References (see [IEEE Citation Format](#) document on website)

REMINDER:

- The writing in this research paper should be in your own words.
- All ideas, paraphrases of other people's words must be correctly attributed in the body of the paper, citing the references.

Criteria:

- Scope (is the topic in software engineering? too broad? too narrow? current?)
- Organization (good thesis stmt, well supported, good flow between paragraphs)
- Quality of explanations (clear, appropriate level of detail, complete)
- Critical evaluation of different approaches (number, advantages/disadvantages)
- Evidence of adequate research (good sources, citations & references managed well)
- Grammar and clarity, good words and sentences, formatting.

Topic:

- You must submit a topic proposal to the instructor for approval via email before writing your paper
- The topic proposal must include the topic and one paragraph explaining what you want to write about. Try to be as specific as you can, try to phrase it as a problem.
- If it's not obvious, explain how your topic relates to software engineering.
- I recommend doing at least some research before deciding on a topic.