Term Paper Guide

General:
Your term paper should represent significant research into a topic of your choosing. It is due on the last day of classes, December 6th, 2010. **NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Bring a hardcopy to class with you that day to turn in.

Please review the plagiarism and acceptable collaboration statements on the course website. You are expected to abide by the [Emory Honor Code](#) when completing this assignment. Plagiarism is unacceptable and suspected cases will be turned over to the University Honor Council. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, speak to the course instructor.

Logistics:
Your paper should be double spaced, 12 point, Times-Roman (or similar) font. Your paper should be professionally written and formatted with section headings, diagrams and tables where appropriate. Aim for 15 pages, with the length depending (in part) on the amount of factual background that you need to provide for the audience.

Your target audience for the paper is the educated professional who is familiar with computers (as a user) and what is going on in the world, but is not a computer scientist. You want to communicate your ideas effectively to people who know less about your topic then you do.

The page requirements are not strict, but fewer than 13 pages probably indicates that you are not getting to grips with the problem in sufficient depth, and more than 16 probably indicates that you are not editing yourself sufficiently as you write. If some of the background details make the paper too long or unwieldy in style, use your judgment and consider moving some of them into an Appendix. Don't try to game the system. If your paper is shorter than 13 pages, don't pad it. If it is longer than 20, don't squeeze it into tiny margins. Please number your pages.

Correct grammar and spelling are important in communicating effectively as a professional. These factors will be taken into account. However, this is not a technical writing course, and the quality of your ideas and research, and the structure of your argument are more important than the mechanics of your writing.

Grading Guidelines:
1. Is the thesis clear? [10%]
2. Is sufficient background given to explain issues to the target audience? [15%]
3. Is each part of the paper thoughtful and well researched? Relevant and legitimate information. Reader gains insight into the topic via writer's in-depth analysis and presentation of material. [25%]
4. Is the paper well organized? Paper should demonstrate a logical sequencing of ideas and use transitions to guide the reader and enhance organization. [20%]
5. Are sources quoted and cited appropriately? Is bibliography complete and appropriate? References should be varied and should be appropriate for a college level course. The paper
should include peer-reviewed sources rather than just using Google or Wikipedia. [15%]

6. Are the mechanics and style of writing appropriate? Paper should be free of spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors. Style of writing should be professional. [15%]

**Graphs or Images:**
If you have graphs or pictures – which is encouraged – don’t include them in your page count. Images or graphs should be cited appropriately and should be incorporated into your paper. Don't have a standalone graph; reference it in your text and explain to your reader what information it conveys.

**Citations and Works Cited:**
You are expected to have a variety of sources in your paper. While this may include some online only references (such as blog postings or online news magazines), you should also incorporate peer-reviewed sources. Kristan Majors Chilcoat is the Emory reference librarian for Math/CS. You can contact her at kmajors@emory.edu or kmajors@learnlink.emory.edu if you are having trouble. Keep careful notes on your sources so that you can cite them correctly.

There **must** be a bibliography section using APA guidelines. Additionally, you must use in-text citations to appropriately give credit for work done by others. Make sure that the references you cite are appropriate, correctly formatted and all appear consistently in both the body of the text (citations) and in the references/bibliography section.