6.121 Feasibility Report & Advanced Writing Topics

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Writing Instructor
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The Final Project has Five Stages

Stage One: Exploration
Stage Two: Feasibility Report/Lit Review
Stage Three: Proposal
Stage Four: Final Paper
Stage Five: Final Presentation
Stage Two: Feasibility Report/Lit Review

Abstract

Introduction

Summary of Idea (What is the problem? Why is it important?)
Previous Work (Who has done this before and how)
Your Design (How you would do it, what's new about your design)

Analysis of Feasibility

Address any issues you raised in your preliminary exploration.
Includes brief sketch of plan (fitting it into final project time),
also considers money constraints and technical feasibility.

References

audience: 6.121 students
length: ~3-5pp
Stage Two: Feasibility Report/Lit Review

Abstract

Introduction

Summary of Idea (What is the problem? Why is it important?)

Previous Work (Who has done this before and how)

Your Design (How you would do it, what's new about your design)

Previous Work = Literature Review

Stay focused on literature relevant to your problem.

Choose appropriate sources.

Paraphrase appropriately.

Use IEEE citation style.
Stage Two: Feasibility Report/Lit Review

Abstract

Introduction
  Summary of Idea (What is the problem? Why is it important?)
  Previous Work (Who has done this before and how)
  **Your Design** (How you would do it, what's new about your design)

Analysis of Feasibility
  Address any issues you raised in your preliminary exploration.
  Includes brief **sketch of plan** (fitting it into final project time),
  also considers **money constraints** and technical feasibility.

References

A detailed description of the design and timeline goes in the Proposal, which is Stage Three. For now, focus on feasibility.
Barriers to Collaboration

Finding times to meet
Using different software
Version control
    ximbiot.com/cvs/
Personalities
sleep
(no, not now)
In each sentence, use old familiar information (A) to introduce important new information (B).

Writer’s natural inclination:

\[ B \leftarrow A \]

Easier for readers:

\[ A \rightarrow B \]
Information order example:

The temporomandibular joint monitor uses electrodes attached to the joint to acquire electromyographic potentials. The user is alerted by a tone when analysis of the potentials indicates that the jaw muscles are close to spasming. The user can perform stretches or relaxation exercises to prevent the spasm.

See “The Science of Scientific Writing” by Gopen & Swan for more info.
It takes time to learn the discourse of the field.

Don’t try to fake it.

Read the literature.
Writing Help

The Writing Center
web.mit.edu/writing

The Mayfield Handbook of Scientific and Technical Writing

Academic Integrity at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology: A Handbook for Students

“The Science of Scientific Writing” by Gopen & Swan
A Google search will generate many hits.

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