Introduction

The Introduction section of your writing serves to bring the reader up-to-date with your research project. In particular, your introduction contains parts addressing the research interest: the Statement of Problem, the Purpose of Research, and the Significance of Research. Whenever possible, you should use one or more concrete examples and technical diagrams.

Please visit the writing resources of the following links for discussion and details about each of the sections of your introduction.

- University of Illinois: https://guides.library.illinois.edu/c.php?g=504643&p=3454882
- Michigan State University: https://writing.msu.edu/how-to-write-a-good-introduction/

Part 1 (February 18th): Developing Outline

An outline for a piece of writing formally arranges and develops ideas in a body of text. The outline serves as the scaffolding-structure to help writers plan the introduction and placement of the necessary ideas and concepts of the written work from the Introduction to the Conclusion. Before putting text on the page, the writer’s outline helps to plan the arguments, categorize the main points, add definitions where necessary, organize the paragraphs by a logical flow, and to be sure that each and all paragraphs and sections can be fully developed in the text without undesired repetition.

Writing a proposal may be difficult to begin because there are many ideas to introduce and to explain in a limited number of pages. However, with the help of a map of ideas and knowledge of their placement in the text, the task of creating an effective proposal becomes more simple and manageable. A well-written and intelligent outline will provide the writer with the map of writing that serves to inform the writing strategy by providing an overview of the ideas in light of their contexts. Once this overview has been found to be acceptable to the writer, then the task of putting words on the page may begin. You are invited to follow the readings at the following links to learn more about effective outlines.

- The Purdue OWL: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/the_writing_process/developing_an_outline/types_of_outlines.html
- http://writing2.richmond.edu/writing/wweb/outline.html

Handed out: 18th February 2020
Your Task

In this part of the assignment, you are to write an effective outline for your Introduction section which will be reviewed by your peer during our next class session. Each section in the proposal document should include an introductory and concluding remarks and logically elaborate on various topics by making specific points using supporting evidence whenever appropriate. An outline template to help you develop a roadmap for writing each section is included below, where ... indicates that there should be a statement or descriptive text there.

I. Introduction ...

II. Body of the outline

Topic A ...

Point 1 ...

a. Supporting evidence ...

b. Supporting evidence ...

Point 2 ...

a. Supporting evidence ...

b. Supporting evidence ...

Topic B ...

Point 1 ...

a. Supporting evidence ...

b. Supporting evidence ...

and so on

III. Conclusion ...

Part 2 (February 20th): Peer Review Task

During our class session on Thursday (February 20th), you will participate in the peer reviewing process, where your colleague will peer review your developed outline. During this process, a reviewer will complete a peer review checklist, included below.

1. The title of the proposal seems appropriate and exciting.
2. The outline covers the Introduction section of a computer science senior thesis proposal.

3. The outline includes a main idea.

4. The outline includes a list of the topics and major points that support the main idea.

5. The outline includes supporting arguments and evidence for each topic or point.

6. The outline includes concluding ideas.

7. The writing plan for the Introduction section has a logical flow.

**Part 3 (February 20–25th): Writing the Introduction**

Before our class session on February 25th, you are to write at least one page of text for your Introduction section. For each point made by the outline, you are to edit the file to add detail and relevant discussion to expand upon the material from the outline. This step is designed to build on the points of the outline and to begin adding the text for the introduction.

**Part 4 (February 25th): Peer Review Task, Due: February 27th**

During our class session on Tuesday (February 25th), you will participate in another peer reviewing process, where your colleague will peer review a current draft of your Introduction section. During this process, a reviewer will complete a peer review checklist, included below.

1. The title of the proposal seems appropriate and exciting.

2. At least one page of text in the Introduction section of a computer science senior thesis proposal is included.

3. The introduction section clearly describes the proposed work (*what* is being proposed).

4. The introduction section motivates the proposed work (*why* do the proposed work) with the help of existing research and includes several references.

5. The section includes introductory and concluding remarks.

6. The ideas in the Introduction section are developed logically and thoroughly.

7. The content presented in the Introduction is technically correct.

8. The transition between paragraphs in the Introduction section is smooth.

9. The overall organization of the section is effective.

10. There are no typographical or grammatical errors in the Introduction draft.

11. There is no extraneous text in the proposal document.

**Handed out: 18th February 2020**
Part 5 (February 26th): Presentation

During our lab session on Wednesday (February 26th), you give a two to three minute “lightning talk”, together with several accompanying slides (written in a software of your choice), in which you explain the details of your introduction section. You can follow the outline of your written Introduction section for the presentation. Specifically, you need to present the title of your proposal project, explain what you propose to do, give the motivation behind it supported by existing work, and discuss what you aim to discover (your hypothesis, research questions, and outcomes).

Part 6 (February 27th): Finalizing Introduction

By our class session on February 27th, you will receive feedback on your current draft from the instructor and/or a technical leader. You will incorporate this feedback into the final version of your Introduction section, which is due by 9:30 am on March 3.

Help?

Please let the instructor know of any questions that you may have. Please use email or make office-hour appointment slots if you would like to discuss an issue.