

SCIE258 HW4d: Final version of the research paper

This assignment is in two parts. Part A (35%) consists of a relatively short document (0.5–2 pages) describing the changes and additions you made to the previous draft of the research paper. Part B (65%) consists of the final version of the research paper itself.

Part A: Description of changes (35%)

As already mentioned, this part of the assignment consists of a document describing how you have changed the previous draft of your research paper. It is essential that any substantive comments made by the instructor on the previous draft are addressed. The best way to do this is to list excerpts from the instructor's comments, coupled with the resulting action you took. Here is a fictitious example:

- “The introduction does not give enough background information about scientist X” -- added two new paragraphs about X.
- “The description of the XYZ technique is incorrect” -- after checking the sources, I believe the description is in fact correct.

As you can see from the above example, it is not necessary to implement every change recommended by the instructor. It is possible that a suggestion is wrong, unreasonable, or misguided. In that case, you must explain why the change is not necessary. However, your Part A document must address every recommended change.

In addition, you should describe any other changes and additions you have made (i.e. changes that were not specifically recommended by the instructor). Continuing with our fictitious example, your Part A document might include the following:

- rewrote most of page 3 after re-reading source Y and understanding it better
- added a paragraph in the conclusion describing an alternative interpretation of this topic

The suggested length for the Part A document is 0.5-2 pages, preferably in the bullet point format of the above examples. Any reasonable spacing and font size may be used. The grading of this document will be based on the comprehensiveness of the implemented changes and the clarity of the explanations given.

Important note: Even if the instructor did not recommend substantial changes to the previous draft, you are expected to significantly enhance your previous draft in some way. This might consist of rewriting or amplifying one or more of the weaker sections, and/or adding new material. Because of this, papers that exceed the recommended length will not be penalized.

Part B: Final version of research paper (65%)

This part of the assignment consists of the final version of your research paper, which should now be of professional quality and suitable for publication in, say, an undergraduate magazine such as Dickinson's Science magazine. The specific requirements for the paper are identical to the previous draft (HW4c), with the following exception.

- You are expected to have improved the previous draft by implementing some or all of the instructor's suggestions and by making your own independent improvements.

The criteria for grading are also identical to the previous draft (please see the guidelines provided with HW4c), with the following exception.

- Additional weight will be given to the quality and correctness of the implemented changes to the previous draft.

Submission

Please submit two PDF files to Moodle—one for Part A, and one for Part B.