

MGMT 345 Topic Project Paper and Website Guidelines

Due by 11:59 p.m., 19 April 2007

You must store the paper in a Microsoft Word document (.DOC) and submit the file through the lab's website prior to midnight, 19 April. Format the document in a pleasant and professional manner.

You must explore your selected topic in detail. Your goal is to write what may be considered a "white paper" that describes your topic in enough detail so that someone with some technical background (similar to yours) will be able to understand what you're writing about. You should do a literature search on your topic to determine what work has been done in that area or with that technology and to form an assessment of the current state of the art.

You should look at how your topic fits into the three aspects of the information systems triangle of people, process, and technology. You should consider how the technology's use in organizations affects the people (what kind of training is needed, how does this affect management, does it have an impact on interpersonal relationships, and so on), how it affects process (does the organization need to rethink or reorganize its business processes to accommodate this new thing), and how it impacts other technology (in general, what specific technology is needed to implement your topic).

Diagrams, figures, and illustrations are encouraged. Your paper should be of professional quality: grammar, spelling, syntax, and overall quality will be a substantial percentage of your grade. Use original sources for your topics. These will be found in journals such as: various *IEEE Transactions* journals, conference proceedings, ACM journals, and so on. Secondary sources such as books and textbooks are also good. The Internet is less useful for basic information, but is quite useful for information about the application of your topic. **DO NOT** rely exclusively on the Web for your information. Much of the stuff you find is written by consultants or interested parties who may or may not be entirely honest about the topic.

Your paper should also include each of the following sections:

Introduction

Define the topic in more detail. What are the boundaries of the topic area? What are the assumptions that you are making? Why is the topic important to accounting?

History

What work has been done on this topic and closely related topics in the past? What is the history behind your topic? Describe the work in enough detail so that a reader unfamiliar with the topic can understand the important concepts and contributions from the past work as well as the limitations of these concepts and contributions.

State of the Art

What is the current state of the art in this area? What do we know how to do? What don't we know how to do? What are the limitations? Where has the recent work on this topic been done and by whom?

Current Applications

Where and how is your topic being used in the real world? Give at least one specific example.

Conclusion

Close your research with a high-level summary of what you found out.

References

Include a list of references to all the publications and other material that you used for researching this topic.

The paper must be at least 6 pages long (not including the introduction and references). It should be formatted in a professional manner and the lines should be 1½ spaced. All material referenced by or used

in your paper should be properly cited and included in the references section. All work should be in your own words. If you use the words of another source directly, it must be properly quoted and cited.

All papers will be submitted to **turnitin.com**. Any papers found to have more than 18% plagiarized material will be automatically failed. However, since these are group projects, the groups will be given an opportunity to re-submit their paper within one week if they identify which sections were written by each member of the group. Those members which did not plagiarize in their sections will be re-graded as if the assignments had been submitted late.

Website

For the website, you need a title page that contains the title of your paper and the names of all of your group members. It should also contain hyperlinks to each of the major sections of your paper: history, state of the art, application, and so on. Each major section of your paper should be a separate web page. It must be posted to a publicly available web server and the URL must be submitted through the lab's website prior to the due date.

Submission

Each member of the group must submit the topic project paper and the URL for the topic project website through the lab's website. These are 2 items which must be submitted separately on the lab's website.