

Exercise C3, 11/5/04

Project Paper Draft 1

Task: Write the first draft of your project paper on a topic of your choice related to the content goals. There will be one more revision (after peer review in Unit C4) in this module, and presentation and final revision in Module D. Thus, you will have time to refine and do more research later. For this draft, try to get the overall organization right, rather than going deep into certain aspects. If there are portions you will be extending/expanding, you may note that in your this draft.

Foci and suggestions

1. Clearly identify your research question/problem and its cost/significance (note that the cost and significance are the two sides of the same thing; just pick one).
 - Try to narrow down your research question/problem so that your response is as full as possible. For example, instead of asking “why does my cat massage this stuffed dog?” (an answer might be “because ...”), you could ask “does my cat massage this stuffed dog because she is insane?” (an answer might be “no, ...”). In general, *why* and *how* questions are more “loaded.” On the contrary, *yes-no* questions are more specific in that the question itself contains more information.
 - When you discuss the cost/significance, explain why responding to your research question/problem could lead to a solution to some practical problem.
2. Follow the research-paper organization introduced in Module A. A sample pattern (**revised**) is included on the back of this sheet. Note that you can deviate from the style *only if* you can convince the instructor that your approach is more effective (check in advance).
3. Try to make your response to the research question/problem logical and convincing.
4. Include a list of references and cite them properly in your paper. You can use any standard citation/reference format, e.g., MLA, APA.
5. Refer to multiple items (books and/or journal articles) in the TCNJ library. If you want to refer to on-line information, discuss the validity and credibility of the source with the instructor in advance. You can do this after class or via e-mail. [cf. Performance Goal 4a]

Special instructions: How to submit this exercise

1. Submit your paper to the instructor as an attachment to e-mail, at least one hour before the class time. Your papers will be shared by the class on-line (anonymously) and will be reviewed by several students anonymously in the next exercise.
2. Also submit a hard copy of your paper attached to this sheet.

Instructions/Notes:

1. Follow the general take-home exercise guidelines (as in Module A).
2. Target around 5 pages (ok, if it’s a little shorter/longer). Include page numbers.

Survey: Time spent between classes: _____

// End

Sample Organization and Guidelines (revised; read this carefully)

- Replace the *italicized* parts with your own words.
- Each box (in Intro/Conclusion) represents a paragraph with some guidelines.
- You may have one or more middle sections (the example below is with two of them).
- Critically think why this pattern might (or might not) work, esp. in connection to your group research presentation. Consult *The Craft of Research* for more details (want to exceed?). This is a good point to reflect in your supporting notes.

paper title

1. Introduction

[Your research problem in the following paragraph must be clear and concise. To be able to do this, you will need to provide the minimal “background” in this paragraph. This paragraph must also be designed to attract the attention of the reader. So, it is often effective to start with some practical problem whose cost/significance is well known to the reader.]

[In this “problem/cost” paragraph, you explicitly state your research problem and its cost (or its cost). Although you do not need to state your research problem in the form of question, it must be clear to the reader what your research problem or question is. To do this, first write your research question. Then, write a sentence describing the cost (or significance). Remember that the cost/significance should explain how your response (answer) to the research question/problem could lead to a solution (action) to the practical problem introduced in the above paragraph. Finally, complete this paragraph based on these two sentences.]

[In this “response” paragraph, provide a brief preview of your response. Not too much, just enough for the reader to get interested and get the big picture about your paper.]

2. *some descriptive section title*

[Try to be logical and convincing ...]

3. *some descriptive section title*

[Try to be logical and convincing ...]

4. Conclusion

[In this “results” paragraph, concisely summarize the response to your research question/problem. At this point, you can assume that the reader has read all the details. Thus, you must be able to write this part differently from the third paragraph in Introduction.]

[In this “significance” paragraph, re-iterate the significance of your research problem. Try to phrase this differently from the second paragraph of the Introduction.]

[In this “future” paragraph, open up the possibility for further applications of your research, more in-depth research, related questions, etc.]

References (or Bibliography)

[Try to use some standard format, e.g., MLA, APA, etc. The bottom line is as follows. For book/article, you need: author, title, source (publisher or journal), and year. For a web site, the web address (URL), author, title, and date (depending on the availability of the information). **Note that you will need to get pre-approval of the instructor if you use on-line information.**]