

NINTH ANNUAL FRESHMAN CONFERENCE: CONFERENCE PAPER ASSIGNMENT

- Write a 4500-5000 word Conference Paper on the topic you've been researching and have outlined.
 - The paper should include significant research (a minimum of 8 sources) AND significant explanation, contextualization, and analysis of that research.

- Required Format
 - Your Conference Paper MUST BE submitted in the standard 2 column format. Use the formatting specifications/template for Word 03, 04, or 07 at <http://www.engr.pitt.edu/freshman/academic/eng12/conference.html>, Step 4.

 - Your paper must include an Abstract, Key Words, introduction, appropriately titled sections, a conclusion, a References list and Acknowledgments.

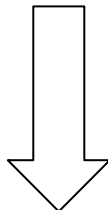
- Required References
 - Your References List (plus your Additional Resources List, if you are using one) must show that you have consulted a minimum of 8 sources. Sources should be appropriate for a paper to be submitted to a professional conference.

- Submission
 - The submission deadline is Thursday, March 5, 2009, by 8:00 p.m.

CONFERENCE PAPER F.A.Q.

Q. Our assignment schedule shows that we will be revising this paper. Is this paper a “rough draft?” How careful do we have to be about various aspects of this paper, since we will have a chance to do some kind of rewriting?

A. This version is NOT A “ROUGH” DRAFT!!” You should consider this version of the Conference Paper to be the version of your Conference Paper that will be carefully evaluated as a finished paper by your mentors, peers, and writing instructors. This means that all aspects of paper writing and submission will be evaluated. Your paper must be in proper format, with all necessary (and correct) identifying information. You must write, review, rewrite, edit, and proofread your paper for clarity, accuracy, cohesion, and correctness. All necessary in-text references must be included; your References section must be present and complete. Yes, you will have an opportunity to return to your paper for changes and additions after it has been read by various audiences, but the expectation



of your readers is that you are submitting a carefully composed and completed Conference Paper.

Q. How should I use my Outline when composing my paper?

A. Your Outline should be used as a substantial guide for writing your paper, and you must pay careful attention to any comments and suggestions your Writing Instructor has made on your Outline. For instance, while your Outline might show you have done substantial research for a particular section of your paper, the placement of that section, as it appears in your Outline, may be problematic. Consider putting that section in a different, better place in your paper, and be certain to establish and maintain its connection to other sections accordingly.

If comments on your Outline recommend further refining the scope of your topic, then you will want to consider how you might focus on particularly important aspects of the technology you are writing about, and/or how you might use a particular example to fully describe a technology and its most important applications

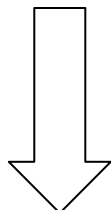
Q. On our Outline, our writing instructor suggested revising our Abstract. Aren't we finished with the Abstract at this point?

A. It may be necessary to revise your Abstract yet again to reflect the (revised and improved) scope and content of your paper. The Abstract you wrote early on (and perhaps have revised once or twice already) and included with your Outline may be more comprehensive than is now appropriate to your paper, may need to more clearly state your topic, or may need to have extraneous claims or wordiness trimmed out.

Q. We received a high grade on our Outline. Does this mean we can expect a high grade on our Conference Paper?

A high grade on your Outline means you are well positioned to continue with the comprehensive, relevant research and focused, substantial communication that your Outline suggests. A high grade on your Outline does not guarantee a high grade on your Conference Paper. To earn a high grade on your Conference Paper, you must continue to

- include and expand upon relevant research
- further and fully describe technologies
- detail applications and examples
- maintain strong interconnection among all sections
- follow all formatting and presentation requirements



Q. How much research should this paper contain? How can we best use our resources and all the information we've gathered from our research?

A. Your paper should demonstrate significant research, and your research information should be used to provide and clarify descriptions and explanations and to illustrate and support evaluations and claims.

You will be quoting directly from your resources (and providing appropriate in-text references), and you will be paraphrasing resource information (with appropriate in-text references). Your paper is **NOT**, however, merely a SERIES OF QUOTED OR PARAPHRASED RESEARCH DETAILS. Yes, these research details will be strategically important, but your own selection, arrangement, contextualization, further explanation, and analyses of research details are ALL ESSENTIAL to a strong paper.

You must show your readers how and why particular research information is significant to your topic. You must clarify for your readers the meaning and usefulness of particular research. You must develop concrete examples that will provide clarity and impact to research specs and statistics. You must show the relationship between various aspects of your research.

HERE'S A GUIDELINE: if you are using quoted or paraphrased research information, what you "add to" that information should be of at least equal length. In other words, if you have a paragraph of quoted information in a section, your explanation, analyses, contextualization of that information should be at least a paragraph long—probably more.