

# Term Paper Mechanics

Hint: These are things that will directly affect your grade on your term paper

# Reminders

- Term paper is due on November 27th. You have 2+ months left.
- Outline is due Monday October 21st.
- Draft is due Wednesday November 6th.
- See the assignment on the class webpage.

# Page Limits

- 10-15 pages
  - if your paper is less than 10 pages, reexamine your arguments and counterarguments to look for weaknesses
  - if your paper is more than 15 pages, work on editing your writing. Be concise.
  - DO NOT count title page, works cited page, graphs, figures, charts, etc. in your page count.

# Sources for Your Paper

- We expect a mix of authoritative and nonauthoritative sources
- ~12-15 sources for this paper
- Authoritative
  - Peer reviewed
  - Established organization
- Nonauthoritative
  - Anonymous content
  - Obviously biased content

# Authoritative Sources

- ACM Digital Library and IEEEExplore are two of your best sources for this class
  - [ACM Digital Library](#)
  - [IEEEExplore](#)
- We have subscriptions to these for free through the GT Library
- [GT Research Guides](#)

# Plagiarism

- Two kinds of plagiarism:
  - **words, direct quotes**
  - **ideas**
- When in doubt, cite.
- Plagiarism is considered academic dishonesty and will be reported to the Dean of Students as an Honor Code violation
- Contact the professor or TA if you need help or have questions.

# Citations

- Two types of citations acceptable for this paper: APA, ACM/IEEE
- I recommend APA unless you use a citation manager (BibTeX, EndNote, etc.)
- Do not use MLA
- You must make use of both parenthetical notations (in-text) and a works cited page at the end of your document

# APA

- Excellent reference showing all different media types and how to cite them:
  - [http://www.library.cornell.edu/newhelp/res\\_strategy/citing/apa.html](http://www.library.cornell.edu/newhelp/res_strategy/citing/apa.html)
- Works cited page in alphabetical order
- Parenthetical citations take form of (Author, year), (Author1 & Author2, year), or (Author1, et al., year)



# ACM/IEEE (paper format)

- Can be tricky
- Parentheticals are number corresponding to works cited page rather than (author, year)
  - Ex: "Walker has shown [1], that..."
- Works numbered as they appear rather than alphabetical order. This can be very bad if you need to go back to page 1 to insert a citation
- <http://www.lib.monash.edu.au/tutorials/citing/ieee.html>

# Citation Styles

- Excellent resource (with examples) for all styles: <http://libguides.library.dal.ca/content.php?pid=860&sid=11818>
- Note that in the above reference, you will follow the APA or IEEE formats. The ACM format references the journal format.
- Whatever format you choose, we expect you to execute it correctly
- We won't be overly nit-picky, but we expect to see a solid, good faith effort to follow the chosen format

# Web Sources

- Special note on web-only sources (no print version)
- Must have:
  - Date last retrieved/accessed
  - Full, unique URL. Not just [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com)

# Grading Criteria

- Is the claim clear? [13%]
- Are the claim and its supporting arguments well argued? [25%]
- Are counterarguments fairly presented and addressed? [25%]
- Is sufficient background given to explain issues to the target audience? [12%]
- Are sources quoted and cited appropriately? [10%]
- Are the mechanics and style of writing appropriate? [13%]
  - Grammar, spelling, and punctuation
  - Formality/tone

(Grading percentages above are an approximate breakdown of the approximate importance of the above criteria when grading your term paper, but may not exactly represent how your term paper grade will be calculated.)