

CS 4001 - Term Paper Outline

You should have identified the topic of your term paper. The rest of the term will be spent actually writing it. To help in this process, write a detailed outline

- **Outline.** An outline is a hierarchical plan of the document with indentation reflecting the organization of material. You should have much more detail by this stage of your project than a mere outline of section headings. (Such an outline would indicate what your paper will be about but not what it will say. Summarize what you're going to say.) In preparing this document, you may find it useful to use an appropriate tool, such as OmniOutliner or MS Word in outline mode.

This document should be a shortened, highlevel, or more abstract summary of what your term paper will say, not what topic it is about. If you can only list subtopics, not what you are going to say about them, then you haven't made enough progress yet. Your outline should include both claims and arguments with supporting evidence.

Two or three pages is about right for an outline. Include at the end or in the body of the outline some of the sources that you are using. There is no need for a bibliography/reference section, although you will be required to turn in a bibliography for your next assignment, so any work done now will not be extra effort. If you do include one, there is no need to use any standard bibliography format, although this will be necessary in the next step and final version. (For the next assignment and the draft/final paper you may use EITHER the APA guidelines OR IEEE format throughout. Do **not** use MLA style.)

When we grade your outline we will be asking the following questions:

1. Is the claim clear?
2. Is the organization of the argument rational?
3. Does the claim and its supporting arguments have evidence to back them up?
4. Are counterarguments fairly presented and addressed?
5. Is sufficient background given to explain issues to the target audience?
6. Are sources of appropriate “weight” and are their enough of them to support your claims?

Submit: A PDF of your outline. Be sure to include your name at the top of the assignment.