

Term Paper Proposal

Professor Hossein Saiedian*

Due: Third Week of the Semester

Those who would like to write a term paper for their “Special Project” should submit a term paper proposal by the third week of the semester. The proposal (2-3 pages) should include the following:

1. A tentative title for the proposed term paper. Make the title as descriptive, precise, and focused as possible.
2. A clear “problem statement” that defines the problem you intend to solve or the research work that you plan to do:
 - Do not describe the symptoms of the problem.
 - Do not describe a proposed solution.
 - Define the problem and its significance (note: even if you decide to write a survey or taxonomy paper, you must still define a problem statement that calls for or invites such a taxonomy).
3. A clear description of the intended contributions of the term paper.
4. A clear description of your intended research methodology, e.g.,
 - Basic research (studying, synthesizing, organizing, evaluating, and summarizing existing research results)
 - An empirical study
 - A research work involving experiment and simulation
 - A survey and literature review. If you plan to prepare a literature review, please note the following:
 - Do not prepare a fragmented, disjointed summaries of individual articles (or experiments, or studies)
 - Prepare a critical and analytical synthesis of different findings (e.g., compare, contrast, relate)
 - Be sure to have a well-defined focus or theme; chronological focus is not always good; strive for a thematic approach (e.g., different theoretical, contrasting approaches)
 - You need not be exhaustive (i.e., to cover everything) but you must cover the most significant contributions

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5. A tentative schedule

6. **References.** In addition to the proposal, include a list of 10-15 references (from credible, peer-reviewed sources) related to the topic of your term paper proposal. You must **CAREFULLY** follow the citation and bibliography style described in the guidelines. No exceptions here.

Depending on the focus of your proposed work, most of your references, especially for introductory papers, should be drawn from the following journals:

- *IEEE Computer* (general)
- *Communications of the ACM* (general)
- *IEEE Software* (software engineering)
- *IEEE Communications* (communications and signal processing)
- *IEEE Security & Privacy* (security)
- *IEEE Network* (computer networks)

For more advanced graduate papers, you should consider transactions and conference proceedings.