CSCI-471 Professional Communications

Research Article Presentation & Written Analysis

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<td>Fri. March 29</td>
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<td>Draft Presentation Materials Due Date</td>
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<td>Presentations Start</td>
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1 The Assignments

For this pair of assignments, you will be given some experience in finding, reading, presenting, and writing an analysis of a research-oriented publication in the area of computer science. It will also give you experience with critiquing other analyses, in a friendly setting. In addition, this assignment will introduce you to many other areas of computing research that you may not be able to investigate thoroughly yourself.

No one would deny that it is important for computer scientists to keep up with developments in their fields. We all are faced with the constant challenge of learning and mastering new programming languages, new tools, new concepts, and new applications. At the same time, we can learn from the history of the discipline of computing. The main purpose of this assignment is to deepen your understanding of a specific area of computer science by critiquing a scholarly paper that helped to define our profession.

1.1 Article Selection

For this assignment you must find, and submit for approval, a scholarly article. There are numerous sources for appropriate papers. Many scholarly papers are published in refereed, technical journals. Additionally, scholars often present their work at conferences, and then papers reflecting that work are later published as part of the conference proceedings. Sometimes collections of important scholarly papers are collected and published in book form. A good place to start looking is the Wallace Memorial Library, which has access to online subscription services. The most useful for our purposes would be the digital archives sponsored by the ACM and IEEE.

Many authors provide access to their own papers through websites, but note there is a distinction in this assignment between personal essays or unpublished documents and papers that have been reviewed prior to publication in appropriate technical sources. Most likely, papers that are simply posted on the Internet or found in trade publications will not be acceptable for this assignment. The things that you should look for in an article are:

- Reporting of original research (i.e. not a survey, or reporting of others' results).
• Topic relevant to the computing discipline.
• Appropriate scholarly content (i.e. bibliographic references).
• Appropriate length (the paper should contain at least five pages of text, not counting pages that contain references or pages that are primarily filled with figures or other non-textual information).

Regarding this last point, you may choose a somewhat longer paper and review and present only some components of the research; This may make it easier for you to understand the topic in sufficient depth to review and present.

Choose a paper that have had some influence on developments in computer science. You are encouraged to choose a paper on a topic of particular interest to you. The range of topics is nearly limitless. You could explore programming languages, software applications, computer architecture, techniques and paradigms, theoretical contributions, artificial intelligence, algorithm design, or some other computing-related topic. You may choose papers that are not recent if you are primarily interested in historical developments, or you may choose more recent papers that describe a promising new direction for computing.

Since the validity of any paper for this assignment will depend on several factors, and in order to make sure that students select an appropriate paper, there will be a preliminary proposal procedure that must be followed.

1.2 Scheduling and Approval

On or before the Research Article Selection Email date you are required to send me (paw@cs.rit.edu) an email with:
• Your name and email ID
• A bibliography reference for the paper you chose, this must include:
  ◦ Paper’s full title.
  ◦ The complete names of all authors (as listed on the paper).
  ◦ The identity of the source (a book title, journal title, conference proceedings, etc.).
  ◦ The volume and serial number (if applicable).
  ◦ The page number (if applicable).
  ◦ The date of publication for the paper.
• A 1-2 paragraph summary of the paper, in your own words (you can't just use the paper's abstract).
• Time slot preference for your presentation.
• A note specifying if you would like to borrow my laptop.
• A pdf copy of the paper you are reviewing.

Title your email:
ProComm Research Article proposal

No person will be permitted to speak on a article that has not been approved.
As a general rule, only one person may speak on a given paper, or a derived paper from the same author(s), although some exceptions may be made. Your day and time slot must be requested by email and will be approved on a first-come first-served basis. To speed up this process, your time slot preference should be provided in general terms (something like: earliest possible date, early the 2nd week, latest possible date, etc.) Topics and time slots will be posted on my course web-page when approved and will be updated frequently. You are encouraged to view this schedule before submitting your request.

The topic email is due by the *Research Article Selection Email* date, Those who have not emailed by midnight will begin losing points at a rate of 5% a day.

### 1.3 Presentation

For the first of the two grades on this assignment, you will present the paper in a 11 minute presentation. Your presentation of the article should last about 10 minutes, allowing around 1 additional minute for questions from the audience. Be prepared, however, if there are no questions, by having a little extra material that you could elaborate on (optional things from/about the article or question(s) you might want to ask, and then answer it yourself).

Your presentation should primarily be a summary of the main points developed in the paper. Make sure to cover the paper's hypothesis, explain the problem that the paper was addressing, explain the key points of the solution made in the paper and the justification given for them, and then the results that were produced, and the conclusion the paper drew from the results. During the talk you should provide evidence from the paper that directly supports the importance of the paper in either computer science or software engineering.

Your presentation should also spend some time critiquing the article. This should be a brief discussion on how well written the paper is, and the relative merit of the intellectual or scientific contribution. Also talk about if the paper delivers a clear message and convinces you of its accuracy and scientific soundness?

Include in your presentation whatever visual aids you think are desirable (e.g., outlines, diagrams, tables, charts, etc.) to help get the message across that you would like to convey. You may copy/paste charts or figures from the research paper that you are reviewing into your presentation, but if you do so, be sure to include a reference to the paper near the chart or figure, along with the page number in the original document where the chart or figure can be found. Also make sure you explain the figure at such a level as to explain what it means, and why its important.

### 1.3.1 Draft Presentation Materials

On the *Draft Presentation Materials due date* you will be expected to arrive in class with a draft outline of your presentation. This draft should be in outline form with a list of major sections of the talk, sub-sections with major points inside each section, and then a short 1-2 line explanation of what you plan on talking about for each points.
Make sure to include your name, the paper's title, the assignment name, the date, and the course-section number at the top of the first page.

1.3.2 Electronic Copy of the Presentation Materials

Each group must get me an electronic copy of their presentation materials, in pdf form, within 24-hours of giving their presentation. This should be emailed to me with the subject line:

ProComm Research presentation materials

1.3.3 Presentation Peer Review

Each presentation will be critiqued by the rest of the class. The critique will cover both technical content and style. Half of your peer review grade for the course will be based on your critique of everyone else’s presentation, so you need to be there both mentally and physically. Your attendance at all presentations is required!

1.3.4 Presentation Evaluation

The table below gives the components that are being graded, and the points assigned to each. Note, you will lose points on the Overall assessment for the way you handled the topic/time slot approval process and the quality handling of the draft outline and electronic presentation materials.

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Visuals</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation style</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Assessment</td>
<td>20 points</td>
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1.4 Written Analysis

The second major grade for this assignment will be based on a written analysis of the research paper. The review should contain two distinct components, a summary of the work presented in the paper (including the title and authors) and a review of the paper itself.

1.4.1 Paper Summary

Your summary should convey the key points made in the paper and the justification given for them. If examples are given, you may want to present parts of them. Provide evidence from the papers that directly supports an advance in computer science. Be sure to provide citations (giving page numbers from the original paper) for key points, direct quotations, etc. While it’s permissible to include
quotes from the original papers, you should strive to limit such quotes to short, telling phrases only, and do not include too many such quotes.

1.4.2 Paper Review

Your review should be a brief discussion on how well written the paper was, and the relative merit of the intellectual or scientific contribution. This should be placed after the summary, rather than weaving it throughout the analysis. Does the paper seem complete? Is its hypothesis well-stated and supported by evidence? Does the author use sound logical reasoning? When necessary, does the paper provide adequate background (a literature review)? Do references and other elements suggest to you that the authors knew what they were talking about? What were those elements and how did that come across in the paper? Do you believe the intended audience is well served by this paper? In summary, does the paper deliver a clear message and convince you of its accuracy and scientific soundness? Do not think of the preceding questions as a list merely requiring a “yes” or “no” answer. Rather, provide some sort of explanation or evidence to support your answers.

1.4.3 Submission

You will not need to turn in draft copies of this assignment, nor will we be doing a group review cycle for this assignment. You should follow the following format for your written analysis paper.

- Your analysis should have a title page, which includes your name, the title and author of the paper being analyzed, the assignment name, the course and section number, and the date.
- The paper should be printed single sided, single-spaced, 12-point font, with a 1 inch margin on all sides of each page.
- The text of the paper should be no longer than four pages. You should not include the title page, or space taken up with figures when looking figuring out the page length.

The final version of your Written Analysis is due by 2:00PM on the Written Analysis Due Date specified on the first page. You may turn the paper direct in to me, either during the official final exam time of 8-10:30AM on that date, or in my office. If you can not get a hold of me, you can drop it off at the CS office by the time specified.

Note: No late submissions will be accepted, period. Obviously early submissions are allowed, keep in mind that we will be having class on Mon. April 29th of that week.

1.4.4 Grading

The grade for the Written Analysis will be broken down as follows:

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<tr>
<td>Paper summary (showing clear understanding of the paper)</td>
<td>45 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Article review (critique of the good and bad elements of presentation)</td>
<td>45 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting assignment specifications</td>
<td>10 points</td>
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