

Independent Science Research - Semester 2 White Paper Guidelines

This white paper will serve as the summative documentation of your independent project. In concise prose, you will detail how you implemented your project and summarize the results of your work. Appendices will provide the reader with the documentation and resources they need to use, re-create, or expand on your final product. The white paper is worth half of your final exam grade for the second semester.

Grading Rubric [55 points total]

Basic Expectations & Formatting [5 points]

- Turned in digitally as a PDF to Haiku and posted to your ISR blog (also as a PDF).
- File name should follow the format: "ISR S2 White Paper - Your Last Name"
For example: "ISR S2 White Paper - Halstead"
- Written component is 500 - 1000 words in length. (Not including appendices)
- Text should be single-spaced, 11 or 12 pt font.
Choose a clean, professional font such as Times New Roman, Arial, Helvetica, or Georgia.
- Consistent font and text formatting throughout document.
- Include your name, course, instructor, date, and project title at the top of the document.
- Section titles from this rubric are used to organize content.
Abstract, Introduction & Goals, etc.
- Appendices are included on new pages after the written component.
Use page breaks to ensure consistency!

Writing Conventions [5 points]

- The Semester 2 White Paper is a professional document. Your writing should meet the basic standards of clean english prose: no spelling errors, no major grammatical issues, correct punctuation, etc.

Abstract [5 points]

- A one to two-sentence summary of your project and what you accomplished this year.

Introduction & Goals [10 points]

- Background: Introduce your project, providing relevant background, inspiration, and motivation.
- Original Goals: Clearly describe your original goals for the project when you started at the beginning of the year.
- Essential Question: State the essential question of your project, and provide enough explanation that a reader unfamiliar with your project can grasp it.

Implementation & Challenges [10 points]

- Mid-year Summary: Summarize the state of the project at the end of Semester 1.
- Project Planning: Looking back over the year, assess the usefulness of the project management methodologies you learned. What helped you implement your project and what was not necessary?

- **Research and Resources:** Compare and contrast the resources you used during Semester 1 with those of Semester 2. What sources/types of information were the most important?
- **Implementation:** Summarize the steps taken to bring your project to completion. Explain the overall timeline of the project, highlighting key milestones. Compare and contrast the type of work you did in Semester 1 with the type of work you did in Semester 2.
- **Challenges:** What difficulties did you encounter in Semester 2, and specifically the final stages of your project?

Conclusion & Legacy [10 points]

- **Accomplishments:** Summarize the results of your work. How does what you achieved compare with your goals and ambitions from the beginning of the year?
- **Lessons Learned:** Summarize the key skills you developed over the past year. Reflect on your work and discuss what you learned that will serve you well in future classes or careers.
- **Legacy:** What do you envision for the future of your project? What impact has this project had on your personal and professional development? How will this project serve as a model for future ISR students?

Appendix A: Project Documentation [5 points]

- Include at least 3 photos, screenshots, tables, or other visuals that demonstrate your process from Semester 2. (ie: the development of your project)
- Include at least 3 pieces of documentation of your final product, in whatever form makes the most sense.
- Each piece of documentation should have a title and an explanatory caption.

Appendix B: Legacy Resources [5 points]

- Compile at least 5 resources that would be important for future students who wanted to build off of your work.
- Each resource (a website, book, person, etc) should have a title and a short sentence describing the resource and its relevance to your project.