

## **ISR Semester 1 White Paper Guidelines**

This white paper will serve as the summative documentation of your work for the first semester. In concise prose, you will detail how you implemented your project, discuss the results of your work, and explain next steps for the second semester. Appendices will provide the reader with the documentation and resources they can reference to learn more about your project. The white paper is worth half of your final exam grade for the first semester.

### **Grading Rubric [ 55 points total ]**

#### **Basic Expectations & Formatting [ 5 points ]**

- Turned in digitally as a PDF through the Haiku dropbox and posted to your ISR blog (also as a PDF)
- File name should follow the format: "ISR S1 White Paper - Your Last Name"  
For example: "ISR S1 White Paper - Halstead"
- Written component is 500 - 1000 words in length (not including appendices)
- Text should be single-spaced, 11 pt font (Choose a clean, professional font such as Times New Roman, Arial, Helvetica, or Georgia)
- Consistent font and text formatting throughout document (Appendices can be exempt if they include something that requires a different format, such as code)
- Include your name, course name, instructor name, 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 S1 White Paper is a formal, 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 semester

#### **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

#### **Planning & Implementation [ 10 points ]**

- Project Planning: Summarize your approach to the project. How did you design or plan out your project?
- Research and Resources: What did you have to learn in order to implement this project? What were the key resources that you used to gain this knowledge or assist you in the implementation of the project?
- Implementation: Summarize the steps taken thus far to implement your project. Explain the overall timeline of the project, highlighting key milestones.

#### **Challenges & Next Steps [ 10 points ]**

- Challenges: What difficulties have you encountered in the implementation of this project? How are you addressing these challenges?
- Accomplishments: Summarize the results of your work. How far are you in meeting your goals for the project?
- Next Steps: What milestones are remaining in your project? What are your next steps in implementing your project?
- Lessons Learned: Summarize the key skills you developed over the past semester. Reflect on your work thus far and discuss what you will do differently next semester.

#### **Appendix A: Project Documentation [ 5 points ]**

- Include at least 5 photos, screenshots, tables, or other visuals that demonstrate your work this semester
- Each item should have a title and an explanatory caption

#### **Appendix B: Key Resources [ 5 points ]**

- Compile at least 3 resources that were important to the development of your project
- Each resources (a website, book, person, etc) should have a short sentence describing the resources and what was gained from it