

# CS 4001 – Term Paper – 100 Points

Your paper should be professionally written and formatted with section headings, diagrams, and tables where appropriate. Aim for between 12 and 15 pages, with the length depending in part on the amount of factual background that you need to provide for the audience. Your target audience for the paper is an educated professional who is familiar with computers (as a user) and what is going on in the world, but is not a computer scientist. That's whom you want to convince that your position is correct.

The page requirements are not strict, but fewer than 12 pages probably indicates that you are not getting to grips with the problem in sufficient depth, and more than 15 probably indicates that you are not editing yourself sufficiently as you write. If you have graphs or pictures – which is encouraged – don't include them in your page count. If some of the background details make the paper too long or unwieldy in style, use your judgment and consider moving some of them into an Appendix.

Don't try to beat the system. If your paper is shorter than 12 pages, don't pad it. If it is longer than 15, don't squeeze it into tiny margins. Please number your pages and include a running header on each page with your name/title in case the pages become separated.

Correct grammar and spelling are important in communicating effectively as a professional. These factors will be taken into account. However, the quality of your ideas and research, and the structure of your argument are slightly more important than the mechanics of your writing.

There must be a bibliography/references section using either the APA guidelines (see Writing Arguments for details) OR ACM/IEEE format. Do not use MLA format.

Make sure that the references you cite are appropriate, correctly formatted and all appear consistently in both the body of the text (citations) and in the references/bibliography section.

Questions we ask when reading your paper:

1. Is the claim clear?
2. Are the claim and its supporting arguments well argued?
3. Are counterarguments fairly presented and addressed?
4. Is sufficient background given to explain issues to the target audience?
5. Are sources quoted and cited appropriately?
6. Are the mechanics and style of writing appropriate?

Failure to include your name on your assignment -10%

Submit a PDF to T-Square, and bring a printed copy to class.