

**CMSI/ELEC 601 GRADUATE SEMINAR**  
**Introduction and Outline**

You might be wondering how you can write the introduction to a paper on a project that has not yet been tackled. Easy -- imagine that you have done the work. What have you produced? What are the significant issues you tackled? What is your contribution? How will you present your results? Write that up, and you have your introduction.

At this point, the introduction is a work in progress, about 150-300 words in length. Read over the introduction of each paper in your growing bibliography to get a feel for introductions in general. The last part of the introduction consists of an overview of the organization of your paper, which forms the basis for your outline. The outline itself give additional detail of the organization of each section of your planned paper and gives you a roadmap for the work ahead. A general outline includes:

- Introduction (The Problem)
- Motivation
- Input/Process/Output Example
- Background and Related Work
- Process Model (The Solution)
- Conclusions
- Future Work

These are described in slightly more detail in "A Guide to CMSI/ELEC 601 Graduate Seminar". The idea is for you to tell the story of your project, not for me to provide a precise outline that you must follow. These components need to be included in your paper. The details of presentation will be worked out primarily between you and your 601 advisor.

The above outline will not suffice as is! Include detail. Remember that you can't get where you need to be unless you know the path to your destination.

You will receive feedback on your intro/outline. Hold onto that, because you are expected to include it in your notebook when you turn in your next report draft.

As always, set margins to 1" on top, bottom, left, right using portrait orientation. Font should be Times Roman, Ariel, or equivalent, with font size equivalent to Times Roman 12 point font. Include a title page/cover sheet with the title of your project, your name, your advisor's name, the date, and some indication that this is a introduction and outline. Number pages (after the cover sheet -- don't number it). Staple the pages together or put it in a report cover (either is fine -- just don't turn in loose sheets, as they tend to fly off at will.

Check for typos. Use proofreaders (LRC, friends, family).

Remember that work is graded both on content and on presentation.