

CS 295: Statistical NLP: Winter 2018

Project Status Report

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As the third submission for your course project, you will be submitting a project *status report*. Each project report (one per group) will be a **maximum 5 page** PDF write-up, using the ACL 2018 style files with the `\aclfinalcopy` flag enabled, uploaded to Canvas by **March 9, 2018**.

What to Submit?

The project status report is intended to be a draft version of your final report, with much of the problem setup, proposed approach, evaluation criteria, and study of related literature complete, and a description of the progress so far, and expected concerns. The report should be structured slightly differently from the proposal, to make it much more like a research paper submission. Here are the sections I anticipate you to have in your report.

- **Title of the Project:** Come up with a succinct title that describes what is novel about your project.
- **Abstract:** A paragraph-long summary of your project, should be a shorter version of the introduction.
- **Introduction:** A complete summary of your project, with the following structure (1 paragraph each):
 - Setup the main motivation for the general area. This is not asking for the motivation behind your particular approach, but instead why is the task important in the first place. For example, if you are doing something in Visual QA or caption generation or text summarization, describe why these are important problems and where do they get applied.
 - Provide a brief summary of what people have done so far, and what are their shortcomings. This is the actual motivation for your work, these are the shortcomings you are addressing in this work.
 - Describe in brief what the main idea behind your work is, and how you think it will address the shortcomings described in the previous section.
 - Summarize the evaluation setup and results so far, with a sentence on what you expect to attain by the final report.

This is not a strict template, but unless you have a regularly-publishing senior PhD student in your team, it would be best for you to stick to this structure.

- **Related Work:** A few paragraphs on related work. Identify at least 4 – 5 papers that are most relevant to your project, and describe each of them in a single sentence or two. If not redundant with the introduction, include a paragraph on how your contribution is different from the ideas and results produced in other papers. This is the main section that where you will argue the novelty of your project.
- **Approach:** Technical summary of your proposed approach. Use notations, equations, and figures to assist your description, i.e. just saying “softmax on an LSTM” is not good enough.
- **Experiments:** Describe the evaluation setup, baselines, and metrics, and include the results of the evaluation so far, using tables, graphs, plots, etc. as needed.
- **Conclusions and Anticipated Problems:** Summarize your existing results, ones you expect to obtain by the final report, and a list of issues/concerns that might prevent you from obtaining them.

Depending on your project, it may not make sense for you to stick to these descriptions too closely, so please feel free to deviate from this structure if needed. Here is a recent blog post about how to write papers: <http://approximatelycorrect.com/2018/01/29/heuristics-technical-scientific-writing-machine-learning-perspective/>.