

CSCI 4310/6310 Writing Criteria

All assignments in this course, including peer reviews, will use complete paragraphs and sentences unless an assignment handout explicitly states otherwise. Feedback will be provided on all written submissions.

The following is the scheme we will use for writing throughout the semester, assuming that a total of 20 points is available for the assignment's writing quality. For the "man page" part of this assignment, the organization will deviate from the rubric and should be consistent with that of a man page, as opposed to paragraphs without headers. When describing testing, the purpose of the test should be included, as well as enough information to reproduce the test easily. The results of any tests done should also be stated clearly.

Lengths will be given in a number of double-spaced pages, under the assumption that the average page contains 250 words. This count excludes figures, code excerpts, and other non-prose from the document. I suggest you do not use numbered or bulleted lists unless there is a strong reason to do so. Excessive spacing, lists, or headings may result in additional scrutiny. An assignment that requests X pages must have at least 250*X words in it total.

For team assignments, all students must contribute equally to both the coding and the writing.

Conventions

- +5 No grammar, spelling, capitalization, or punctuation errors
- +3 Very few errors, does not affect readability
- +0 Significant quantity of errors or large errors which make reading challenging

Organization

- +5 The layout of paragraphs and ideas does not harm readability and creates a logic progression
- +3 Paragraphs or sentences are in a disjointed layout or are long and rambling, which makes it hard to connect ideas
- +0 Paragraphs are sparingly used, sentences are extremely long and/or very fragmented. Submission appears to not be intended as formal/technical writing.

Word Choice

- +5 Phrasing is varied and words are used correctly
- +3 Occasional misuse of a word, or a word/phrasing repeated twice or more in a short span.
- +0 Frequent repeated use of words or phrases, particularly to start sentences or paragraphs or in adjacent sentences.

Ideas & Content

- +5 Writing conveys a point clearly and with specifics. There is good depth in the content which demonstrates understanding of the topic.
- +3 The points of the author are clear but there is some generalization or portions of the submission do not have sufficient support, or length is a little shorter than required.
- +0 Lack of effort is apparent through only superficial amounts of detail being present, or length is significantly less than required.