SSOE 17th FIRST YEAR CONFERENCE
CONFERENCE PAPER ASSIGNMENT, 2017

Write a 4500-5000 word Conference Paper on the topic you have been researching and have outlined. Due: Friday, March 3, 2017, by 8:00 p.m.

- Your paper must include significant research (a minimum of 8 sources) AND significant explanation, contextualization, and analysis of that research
- Your paper must have significant technical content; you must describe and explain, in detail, the engineering/science relevant to your topic
- Your descriptions and explanations must include and must clarify the relevant math, physics, chemistry, and/or biology information/specs (including, if appropriate, equations, formulas, descriptions of scientific laws/principles, etc.)
- Engineering does not “happen” outside of professional and social contexts—in addition to describing and explaining the relevant science/engineering/technologies, you will provide contextual evaluation of your topic/technology and related applications

Required Format
- Your Conference Paper MUST BE submitted in the standard 2 column format. Use the formatting specifications/template at “Your Conference Paper and Outline Must Follow the Formatting Instructions” on the Conference Information page under Step 4
- This is the same document with the same specifications as you used for your Outline, except that you will NOT include your Annotated Bibliography with your Conference Paper.
- Your paper must include an Abstract, Key Words, an introduction, appropriately titled sections and subsections, a conclusion, a Sources section, an Additional Sources section (if needed), and an Acknowledgments section
- Bibliographic information in your Sources and Additional Sources sections must appear as specified in t “How to Present Sources” on the Conference Information page. These are the same specifications you used for the Outline
- A minimum of 3 points will be deducted for each formatting error

Required Sources
- Your Sources section (plus your Additional Sources section, if you are using one) must show that you have consulted a minimum of 8 sources. Sources must be appropriate for a paper submitted to a professional conference
- The Bevier Library information posted at and linked from “Library Tips for developing your Paper: Research guide” on the Conference Information page or at http://pitt.libguides.com/freshmanengineering will continue to be useful
- The Bevier Engineering Library Librarians (and other University Library System Librarians and resources) will continue to be useful to you for research assistance, but, remember, they cannot provide assistance at 3:00 a.m., and trying to locate a source the day before your paper is due is not an effective research strategy
- If you do not scroll down and continue reading, you will miss essential information, which will lead to you losing points on your Conference Paper

Submission Requirements
The electronic submission deadline is **Friday, March 3, 2017, by 8:00 p.m.** (the Friday before Spring Break). Submit your Conference Paper as a docx file.

Papers not uploaded to the submission site by March 3, 2017, 8:00 p.m. will not be accepted.

**CONFERENCE PAPER F.A.Q.**

**Q.** Our assignment schedule shows that we will be revising this paper. Is this paper a “rough draft?” How careful do we have to be about various aspects of this paper, since we will have a chance to do some kind of rewriting?

**A.** **This version is NOT A “ROUGH” DRAFT!!** You should consider this version of the Conference Paper to be the version of your Conference Paper that will be carefully evaluated as a finished paper by your Writing Instructor, Chairs, Co-chairs, and peers. This means that all aspects/elements of your paper will be evaluated. You must write, review, rewrite, edit, and proofread your paper for clarity, accuracy, cohesion, and correctness. Your paper must be in proper format. All necessary in-text references must be included; your Sources section must be accurate, complete, and correctly formatted. Yes, you will have an opportunity to return to your paper for changes and additions after it has been read by various audiences and evaluators, but the expectation of your readers is that you are submitting a carefully composed and completed Conference Paper.

**Q.** How should we use our Outline when writing our paper?

**A.** Your Outline should be used as a guide for writing your paper, and you must pay careful attention to any comments and suggestions your Writing Instructor has made on your Outline. For instance, in your Outline you might not have provided any information/analysis about a particular example of an application for your technology. Your Writing Instructor will have alerted you to the importance of such an example. You will demonstrate your attention to what your Writing Instructor has said (and to such an important element in your paper) by your integration of a detailed, significant example.

**Q.** On our Outline, our writing instructor suggested revising our Abstract. Aren’t we finished with the Abstract at this point?

**A.** It may be necessary to revise your Abstract yet again to best reflect the scope and content of your paper (now that you are writing the full Conference Paper, you are more clear about exactly what constitutes the “scope and content” of that paper). The Abstract you included with your Outline might be longer and more detailed than is now necessary, or your Conference Paper Abstract might need to more clearly state your topic, or might need to more clearly and concisely summarize the information areas of your paper.

**Q.** We received a high grade on our Outline. Does this mean we can expect a high grade on our Conference Paper?

**A.** A high grade on your Outline means you are **well positioned to continue** with the comprehensive, relevant research and focused, substantial communication that your Outline suggests. A high grade on your Outline **does not guarantee a high grade** on your Conference Paper. To earn a high grade on your Conference Paper, you must continue to

- include and expand upon relevant research
- further and fully describe technologies
- detail applications and examples
- maintain strong interconnection among all sections
- follow all formatting and presentation requirements
Q. How much research should this paper contain? How can we best use our resources and all the information we’ve gathered from our research?

A. Your paper should demonstrate significant research; your research information should be used to provide and clarify descriptions and explanations and to illustrate and support evaluations and claims.

You will be quoting directly from your resources (and providing appropriate in-text references), and you will be paraphrasing resource information (with appropriate in-text references). Your paper is NOT, however, merely a SERIES OF QUOTED OR PARAPHRASED RESEARCH DETAILS. Yes, these research details will be strategically important, but your own selection, arrangement, contextualization, further explanation, and analyses of research details are ALL ESSENTIAL to a strong paper.

You must show your readers how and why particular research information is significant to your topic. You must clarify for your readers the meaning and usefulness of particular research. You must develop concrete examples that will provide clarity and impact to research specs and statistics. You must show the relationship between various aspects of your research.

HERE’S A GUIDELINE: if you are using quoted or paraphrased research information, what you “add to” that information should be of at least equal length. In other words, if you have a paragraph of quoted information in a section, your explanation, analyses, contextualization of that information should be at least a paragraph long—probably more.