Until you receive your Proposal back, the Writing Instructor who visited your class is your main point of contact:

- 10:00, Dr. Mahboobin; Julianne McAdoo, jumst15@pitt.edu
- 10:00, Dr. Sanchez, Anjali Sachdeva anji.sachdeva@gmail.com
- 2:00, Dr. Bursic, Barbara Edelman, edelman@pitt.edu
- 2:00, Dr. Vidic, Dan McMillan dem57@pitt.edu
- 4:00, Dr. Lora, Beth Newborg bnewborg@gmail.com
- 4:00, Dr. Mahboobin; Emelyn Fehrman emelynsfuhrman@gmail.com
- 6:00, Dr. Lora, Nancy Koerbel, nancy@nancykoerbel.com
Read the Assignment!!

• Be sure to read and re-read the assignment; the instructions and information in the assignment are as important as any information included in a textbook for any class!

• Read all additional materials.

• Keep all assignment materials with you as you write—for a successful Proposal (and, eventually, Conference Paper) you MUST CONTINUE TO consult all assignment materials
Start Your Research Now!!

• This assignment requires research. The sooner you begin, the better. You should begin TODAY!

• It will not be possible to delineate a sufficiently specific topic without significant research!

• Consult the “Choosing a Topic” video and the LibGuides for Engineering.
COMMUNICATE with Your Partner

• Make sure you have (and have saved/written down) every point of contact with your partner
  ➢ Email (at least 1 *reliable* email address)
  ➢ Phone number
  ➢ Address
  ➢ Other contact info., as agreed upon by both of you (Skype username? Facebook Friend/Messages? Etc.?)
  ➢ Favorite places to hang out?
  ➢ Emergency contacts?

Don’t lose your partner; you only get one!
Play Nicely

If any problems come up between you and your partner, address them IMMEDIATELY! Do NOT let things go!

You and your partner get the SAME GRADE on every part of this assignment.
Let’s Get Technical

• This project will have considerably more "technical" content than your fall semester papers.

• You will need to include descriptions/explanations of "how things work," complete with formulae, equations, diagrams, etc.

• Sound "technical content/communication" requires careful and extensive research (Start Now! Today!)

But always keep in mind:

• Though your paper will definitely include significantly technical content, engineering and technologies do not exist "in a vacuum.” You will discuss, in your Conference Paper, "so what?"/social and professional impact factors. Your Proposal will introduce/summarize these factors.
The Proposal

• 375-450 words

• You need a solid foundation to move forward → working toward conference paper.

• Due Thursday, January 14th; format and submission instructions will be provided via email and/or in class
Key Elements of the Proposal

1) Statement of topic (be sure to underline your topic statement or interrelated topic statements)

2) Describe/explain key aspects of the technology (and/or material, process, device, etc.); describe/explain key application or applications; note the example (or examples) you will be using throughout the paper

3) Describe/explain how/why knowledge and understanding of this topic are important to the Conference audience at this time

4) Briefly describe your “plan of action” for continuing with your research/descriptions/explanations/analyses
Key Elements: 1) Topic

• You need to write and underline a topic statement (or several interrelated statements)
• What (all) will your paper ultimately be about?
• Narrow your topic; for example: mechanical engineering → solar power → solar panels for residential use → nano solar → thin films → the use of CIGS technology in creating solar shingles
Key Elements: 2) Description of key aspects of the technology (and/or material, process, device, etc.)

• Basically (and briefly), what is this technology and how does it “work?”

• What are the key materials and/or components and/or processes?

• What application/use and accompanying EXAMPLE will be described/explained/analyzed in your paper?
Key Elements: 3) Describe/explain how/why knowledge and understanding of *this topic* are important to the Conference audience *at this time*

- Begin answering the questions: “So what?” “Why should we—or anyone—care about this topic/technology?”
Key Elements: 4) Plan of Action

• **What** is your strategic plan for continuing with your paper?

• What **kinds** of information will you be using? What types of sources will you be consulting?

• How will you examine/use a selected example (or selected examples)?
Additional Assignment 1 Component: Topic Area Explanation

• A 75-100 word explanation of why your Conference Paper belongs in topic area X.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference Topic Areas</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bioengineering</td>
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<td>Industrial Engineering</td>
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<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
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</table>
Additional Assg. 1 Component: Sources

You must consult at least 6 sources; you must have a “Sources Consulted” section that provides complete bibliographic information for these sources (complete instructions for formatting this section will be provided via email and/or in class)

• 1 source is the “Choosing a Topic” video (available here http://www.library.pitt.edu/other/files/il/fresheng/index.html or here http://pitt.libguides.com/c.php?g=12277&p=67826 (at this Libguides link, look under “Still Having Trouble Choosing a Topic, for the video link)

• 1 source should be a “history of” or “overview of” your topic

• 3 sources on your specific, narrowed topic. These sources must provide detailed information about your specific topic.

• 1 source should be on the ethical or social impacts of your topic and/or your field of inquiry.
A lower cost alternative for harnessing solar energy is the CIGS thin film module [1]. CIGS requires less material than polycrystalline and produces a high-level of performance [2].

REFERENCES


[2].