

Senior Internship Project Paper Guidelines

During the first quarter of your senior internship (**183A**), you will begin work on your senior internship project which includes writing a detailed plan on how you will carry out that project (a template for that proposal is [here](#)). During the second senior internship quarter (**183B**) you will be working iteratively with your faculty and agency sponsors to develop your project and final paper throughout the quarter. By the end of your second quarter, you will submit a final project to both your agency and faculty sponsor that is either: 1) a research paper project or 2) a non-paper project (e.g., website, physical infrastructure, lesson plans) along with a paper synthesizing background research that was done for the project (hereafter “background research paper”). These guidelines detail requirements for the final project paper, building on the proposal you prepared for 183A.

General Guidelines

- **Length:**
 - For a research paper project, the final document should be at least 3,000 words in length
 - For a non-paper project (e.g., website, physical infrastructure, lesson plans), the final background research paper should be at least 2,000 words in length
- **Citations:** Your paper must include at least 10 peer-reviewed citations.
- **Feedback and revisions:** All papers must receive at least one round of detailed feedback from the faculty sponsor. Submit a full draft of your paper to them by the start of week 7 so that you can revise it before final submission by the end of the quarter. At this time you should also offer your agency sponsor the opportunity to review your draft, though this is not required.
- **Submission:** The final version will be submitted to Canvas at the end of week 10.

Sample Paper Outline

Below is an example of how you might structure your final paper. In reality, the exact structure, as well as the lengths of the different sections will vary with project type and should be determined in discussion with your faculty sponsor.

Introduction

This section should cover your project background and the rationale for your project. Why is your project important and relevant for your agency? What gap/need are you addressing? What is its potential impact on science or society? This section should flow from the broad topic of your research down to your specific project and the need it serves. You should review the

scholarly literature that informed your project in the introduction or in a separate literature review section, depending on the format you and your faculty sponsor agree upon.

Project objectives or research questions

Here you will present your project objectives. If it is a research project, it should specify the questions you aim to answer with your research. You should use verbs such as “identify”, “quantify”, “map”, “review”, etc. Alternatively, if it is a non-research project (e.g. a podcast, curriculum, art display), it should state the objectives your project aims to achieve. Some faculty mentors may advise including this in the introduction rather than giving it its own section.

Literature review

Here you will synthesize the existing literature related to your topic, drawing out key themes relevant to the research you undertook or the physical project you developed. Depending on the project and the faculty mentor, this may be part of the introduction, or it might constitute the bulk of a background research paper, with separate subsections delineating different bodies of scholarship you are bringing together or capturing key themes within a single body of scholarship.

Methods

Describe the methods or steps you took to complete your project. These could be mapping methods, field data collection, preparing materials, designs, or approaches for your project. The description should be detailed enough that another person can replicate what you did for your project. For research projects, you may want to include subsections such as “Study area,” “Data collection,” “Data analysis,” and “Design approach”. For non-research projects, the subsections will vary based on your project type.

Results/Discussion

In this section you will describe your results or outcomes, and discuss how they relate to existing research in the field or how they contribute to the agency’s goals. In short, this is where you describe the impact of your project. For research paper projects, this section could include graphs, maps, or tables of results as well as a discussion narrative akin to that found on a peer-reviewed manuscript. For non-paper projects, this section could include pictures of your projects, description of how it is being used by the agency, how you envision it being incorporated into the agency’s goals and activities, and lessons you learned from doing this project. You may also want to include a paragraph or list of next steps or areas for future work/research in the case that another student wants to continue the project in the future.

References

All references (at least *10 peer-reviewed sources*) must be included in the paper with appropriate format (e.g. APA) and should include author, year, title, journal/publisher.