

## ISM 351 Term Paper Requirements and Grading Rubric

Instead of writing a term paper about anything, this course requires you to limit your scope to a topic relevant to the course theme of data communications and networking. Write a college level research paper (APA format) including proper citations and a supporting reference section. Your term paper should be informative and educational for the class.

Scope of the term paper topic. No matter what topic you choose, always follow the principle of relevance — i.e., your topic must be relevant to the course theme (data communication, networking, or networking-related security). Your topic could be either something you have learned so far or something that you plan to learn about. A topic that is irrelevant to the course will result in a poor grade in your term paper.

For your literature review, use UM-Dearborn's online Library database to access recent and relevant articles or journals, you can also use Google Scholar or Google to search for published articles or journals (books are great resource too). Corporate White Papers, Corporate product literature, and market research reports are also good sources for your report. The inclusion of pictures and graphs is not encouraged. However, if including pictures and graphs can better serve your term paper, you can use them but don't make them too big to avoid writing.

Please use APA style (seventh edition) for writing this paper. You can use direct quotes and/or paraphrase, so please do not plagiarize. Give the authors credit for what they wrote, and you will do well. Your papers will be submitted and filtered using Turnitin to validate authenticity. If you do a good literature review, you should have no problem writing a college level research paper that is at least 6 pages long, double spaced. Your term paper will be judged on the content and clarity of your paper. Please avoid blogs since they are not peer reviewed. Your Turnitin similarity score is expected to be no more than 5%. Your term paper submission must be a Word document.

### Content of paper

- Title Page (5%)
  - The title should be relevant to the topic of your term paper.
- Introduction & Problem Statement (20%)
  - The introduction clearly identifies the topic and indicates the purpose of your term paper including an overview of the paper.
  - The introduction explains clearly the importance of the topic.
  - The introduction provides sufficient background information on the topic presenting how this information is connected to the problem statement.
  - The problem statement identifies an issue or problem that needs to be investigated and the consequences of not solving that problem.
  - The problem statement clearly describes a specific issue that addresses an existing knowledge gap in the relevant field. There is at least one paragraph at the end of the introduction section that describes the problem statement (controlling idea of your paper).
- How does your topic relate to the course theme? (15%)
  - Must demonstrate the relevance of term paper topic is to course theme and indicate your term paper looks into which specific part(s) of data communication, networking, or networking-related security.
  - Illustrate your understanding of current state of the area (e.g., on which layer(s), how it works, etc.)
- An in-depth literature review (A review of articles on your topic) (25%)

- Explain how each cited study relates to the topic and to other studies in that sentence or paragraph (coherent theme).
- A variety of studies relevant to the topic (depth and breadth of research) should be cited.
- A collection of studies for differences/commonalities about the topic (analysis) should be analyzed.
- There is a conclusion paragraph at the end of the literature review summarizing the most important information presented in that section (information is synthesized).
- The information through this section is logically organized with good flow and several issues threaded throughout paper (Organization and Alignment).
- Citing at least 5 credible articles (WSJ, NYT, WP, HBR, journal articles, etc.).
- How does this topic impact the industry (sector)? (10%)
- Future implications? (5%)
- Impact on your career? (5%)
- Summary (5%)
  - Summarizes the main points of your term paper, including recommendations or tentative solutions to the problem.
  - Provides substantial evidence relevant to your problem statement or to support tentative solutions you proposed.
  - The conclusion includes an ending comment that inspires the reader to continue thinking about your topic.
- References (5%)
  - Reference list is relevant and complete listing all sources cited throughout the paper.
  - Reference list is in correct APA 7e format.
- Others (5%)
  - Correct spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, and word usage through the paper.
  - Use of transition paragraphs or bridge sentences between different paragraphs or sections.
  - Information logically organized with good flow
  - Correct use of APA style 7e through the paper (i.e., in-text citations)

### **Format of paper**

- APA style 7<sup>th</sup>
- Title page
- A running head (the running head includes a short title in capital letters, left-aligned
- page number, right-aligned (less than 50 characters)
- The text should be formatted in Times New Roman 12)
- Length of paper minimum 6 pages excluding title page and reference section
- Double spacing
- Times New Roman font
- 12-point font size
- 1-inch margins (left / right)
- ½ inch margins top & bottom
- References

Note: Please see the writing rubric for the methodology that will be used to by the instructor to grade the paper.