About your report

... And thoughts on IEEE Style Guide

STARTING TODAY, ALL PASSWORDS MUST CONTAIN LETTERS, NUMBERS, DOODLES, SIGN LANGUAGE AND SQUIRREL NOISES.
What is a style guide?

- Rules for how to write and format
- Published by an organization
- An aid to communication
- A pain in the neck

But worth it.
Why Go Along with the Crowd?

• Pick your battles
• Instant credibility
• More efficient
• Encourages group work
• Inconsistency is jarring!

“If the documentation is only ever going to be written by one person, and read by the same group of people, that documentation does not require a style.”

–Stackexchange.com blog post 4/3/12
Where is the Style Guide?

IEEE Web Site Author Digital Tool Box

Class Web Site
http://www.ece.utah.edu/~kstevens/3991/3991.html
IEEE Format Overview

• 2 columns
• Single spaced
• Justified margins
• Numbered primary headings, centered
• Lettered secondary headings, flush left
• Numbered figures and tables
• Times New Roman font
IEEE paper contents

• Title
• Author (name and affiliation)
• Abstract
• Introduction
• Body with figures and math
• Conclusion
• References
Title and Author

- Substance, not suspense
- Capitalize important words
- Don’t capitalize unimportant words (a, an, the, and, but, for, or, or, in, out, on)
- Student affiliation is the University
- Look up format every time
Abstract

• Short and sweet (150 words or less)
• Explains purpose
• Presents findings
• Details importance of research/subject
• Special formatting—look it up
Introduction

• Explains research topic
• Provides context for topic
• Explains practical application ("why")
• Communicates goals/purpose of paper
Body

- **Summarizes and evaluates research**
- **Chronological**
  - Previous approaches to problem
  - Your approach and methodology
  - Assessment and commentary on results
- **Includes data**
- **Uses headings and subheadings**
- **Fulfills goal/purpose outlined in intro**
Figures

- Placed only in body of paper
- Placed at top or bottom of columns, after mention in text
- Each figure requires caption
- Number sequentially
- Minimum 2 figures required
Conclusion

- Restates project goals
- Summarizes results
- Reexamines project objective
- Analyzes unexpected findings
- Explains significance of research results
References

• Minimum 5 required
• Numbered with brackets
• Listed at end of text
• Left-aligned
• Accurate
• Look up format every time!
Your Writing Assignment

• Any computer engineering topic
• A survey of others’ research, or a technical description
• 50% of your grade
• Draft due Nov 6th
• Final due Dec 4th
Requirements

• 4-6 pages
• IEEE format
• Minimum five citations
• Minimum two figures
• Explains technology clearly
• Correct grammar, spelling, punctuation
• LaTeX & PDF files, submitted electronically
Just do it!

“While style guidelines may seem onerous at times, following dictated guidelines . . . may make the difference between success and failure as a writer.”

-- wiseGEEK.com, retrieved 9/5/12