

How to Write a Paper
Professor Hicks

Due by Friday evening, November 30, 2007. Send to Professor Hicks (mwh@cs.umd.edu). We will go over these assignments a week from Monday, during the next lecture.

Find four papers that you are interested in.

- From your personal interests
- Ask your advisor
- From a class
- Ask Professors Hicks and/or Kruskal as a last resort

For each, evaluate, the following according to the four questions listed below.

- (a) The abstract
- (b) The introduction
- (c) The related work
- (d) The whole paper

Make sure that at least one of your papers is exemplary in your assessment one of these sections, and at least one paper could use some work.

Here are the questions:

- (1) How well do the papers adhere to the structure/goals of each section as suggested in the lecture?
- (2) Which sections are executed well? Which are executed poorly? Does success always correlate with the suggestions/structure of the lecture? If not, why is this so?
- (3) List what you believe to be each paper's contributions. Is it easy to figure out what they are? Are they clearly identified? Is there a "ping?" Indicate when what you think to be the contributions differ from what's clearly presented in the paper.
- (4) Is the paper consistent about its assumption of audience?

Finally, pick one of the abstracts that you thought was bad and rewrite it. Submit your revision of the abstract along with the original, and explain why you think the new one was better.