

Guidelines for Writing Projects

Some advice for approaching a project:

When you first receive the project, read it over and make note of any unfamiliar terms or concepts. Look up these terms in the book, or ask about them. Read the entire project several times before beginning to work on any part. If the project is not broken into steps already, make a plan for completing the project. If you don't understand one part of the project, you may be able to skip it temporarily and work on some other parts first.

Work together. Find at least one other person that you can consult with outside of class. Plan to meet at least twice – once at the beginning and once near the due date – to discuss your thoughts and answer each other's questions. When you submit your final copy, you must each write up your own version, but please list the names of anyone you worked with on the project.

Be sure you try to answer each question with your partner – don't give up too easily. You may not always see what to do right away; part of the purpose of doing a project is to explore. If you and your partner become stuck at any point, though, *ask for help*. I'm happy to answer questions.

Guidelines for writing up the project:

Each of you will submit your own version of the project, but please list the names of anyone you worked with. Also briefly describe the role and contribution of each person in your group, including yourself. The project may be hand written or typed, but it is recommended that you type any prose and hand write any calculations. It must be a final copy – rewrite all work, diagrams, etc. onto a clean page after you've worked out your solution. I do not want to see any false starts, cross outs, pieces out of order, etc.

Follow the format described on the project sheet: include a title and introduction that describes the problem, your methods and briefly states your conclusions.

Any diagrams or graphs should be drawn large enough to read easily, and should be completely labeled.

References are essential – any sources (including other people) *must* be given credit.

Other ideas:

Try to have fun – make up a story to go with the project, or do some outside reading on the topic to add context. (Extra credit)

The point of the projects is to explore ways in which to tie together ideas from class and the homework to solve a bigger problem or to investigate some aspect we haven't covered in class. Use it as a chance to learn something new.