Writing Assignment Two and Information Searching

You have now written and revised a proposal. The second writing assignment is to write the Introduction/Background section(s) of your final paper. You’ll be able to flesh out the Proposal you wrote for the first workshop and to use it as the framework for the Background/Introduction sections.

To review requirements for the final paper, go to the sample final paper posted on the SUNFEST website:  http://www.seas.upenn.edu/sunfest/docs/ReportExampleSriram.pdf

You may write one section called Introduction/Background, or your content may lead you to prefer both an Introduction (for example, to explain the need for your project and the motivation for the focus of your particular endeavor) and a Background section (for example, to summarize recent research or innovations in the field).

I’m sending you a sample Introduction/Background from a previous SUNFEST paper. I’ve added annotations to explain fine points of the writing.

You’ll note that the Introduction and Background sections of this paper include numerous citations of published work, and that these citations match items in the References list at the end of the paper.

Be sure to cite authoritative previous work in your Introduction/Background section(s)/. The word authoritative is important: You do not want to rely on information of questionable validity as you are setting the direction of your summer project. The Information Retrieval and Evaluation Workshop (Friday, June 13th, 2014) will give you guidance and practice in finding and evaluating sources.

Following the Information Retrieval and Evaluation Workshop, conduct (or continue) library research. Be sure to consider all these types of documents:

- Literature reviews
- Scholarly journal articles
- Conference papers
- Patents
- Books

Keep track of your sources. Cite them as appropriate as you write the Introduction and Background sections of your paper. List them in a List of References at the end of the Introduction/Background.

Reference List format: Both in-text references to the documents and the reference list itself should follow the citation style of the SUNFEST Final Project. See http://www.seas.upenn.edu/sunfest/docs/TemplateReport.doc
SUMMARY: Writing Assignment 2: Introduction, Background, and List of References

DUE DATE: Friday, June 27th, 2014 by 9:00 AM.

SUBMISSION: Please create this in Word and email it to Writing Workshop Leader Jessica Leon (Jessica.a.leon@alumni.upenn.edu). NOTE: You’ll submit this to your advisor after Workshop Three, but you certainly might want to consult with your advisor regarding content as you prepare the current draft.

HELP WITH THIS ASSIGNMENT

Finding and evaluating sources: Use the online guide:

http://gethelp.library.upenn.edu/guides/engineering/sunfest/sunfest1.html

If you have further questions, many librarians are available to help you. Here is a list:

Doug McGee
Engineering Library - 217 Towne
dmcgee@seas.upenn.edu
215-898-8170
IM: PennEngSciDir

Lauren Gala
Math/Physics/Astronomy Librarian
3N1 David Rittenhouse Laboratory (link to map: http://www.facilities.upenn.edu/map.php?id=477&t=1)
215-746-0228
milaur@pobox.upenn.edu

Judith Currano
Chemistry Librarian
3301 Spruce St, 5th Floor
(http://www.facilities.upenn.edu/map.php?id=472&t=1)
215-746-5886
currano@pobox.upenn.edu

Writing the Introduction/Background sections: If you need extra help with your writing, contact Jessica Leon to set up an appointment to work with you one-on-one. Also, for general questions about the writing, or about citing other sources in your writing, contact Jessica:

Jessica.a.leon@alumni.upenn.edu