

CMPSC 580
Topics and Research Methods in Computer Science
Spring 2015

Assignment 16
Writing for Computer Science Précis
Due February 27, 2014

Write a Précis

Using L^AT_EX, create a one-page précis of chapters 3 and 6 in Zobel’s *Writing for Computer Science*. Write in a formal scholarly style. Review what you have learned in your FS and other courses about formal writing—write simply and objectively, paying attention to organization, grammar, spelling, and style. You do not need to provide citations, footnotes, or a bibliography. Overall, this assignment is similar to assignment 8 where you wrote a précis of chapters 1 and 2.

Additional Advice

The Junior Seminar is meant to simulate a real research group. A member of a research group should not feel inhibited about approaching another member of the group (or, for that matter, a faculty member) for advice, or to discuss an interpretation of a reading, or to ask for critical feedback on a document, project, or presentation. Similarly, group members should always be willing to act as a sounding board or to provide feedback to others.

In summary, you should collaborate with other students in the research seminar:

- You are encouraged to discuss the assigned chapters among yourselves and try to identify the most crucial points developed by the author.
- You are encouraged to share drafts of this assignment with one another for review and constructive criticism, including writing suggestions, finding typos, grammatical errors, etc.
- If you are approached by a classmate, I expect you to agree to review that person’s writing. Exchange papers and learn how to evaluate others’ work—it will make you a better writer!

It is possible to work together and still produce a document that is your own. The spirit of the Honor Code must still predominate, but you should now possess the maturity to be able to distinguish when you are “growing your ideas” in the fertile soil of shared discussion and criticism and when you are “taking somebody else’s work and presenting it as your own.” Do good work. Help one another. Please see the course instructor if you have questions about this policy.