



Overview

The purpose of this assignment is for you to identify a current topic in electrical and computer engineering that you will research and present in both written and oral form. You will become familiar with journals and professional organizations in the field of electrical and computer engineering. You will also learn how to synthesize information, write a literature review, and present a review orally.

Content

The proposal **MUST** include the following paragraphs:

1. *Greeting*—just plain “Dr. Cotter:” (with a colon after the name)
2. *Introduction*—remind recipient why you are writing (1-2 sentences)
3. *Body*—Discuss the following items:
 - Journals you have reviewed (see "Journals" below) (multiple sentences)
 - Proposed current topic (see "Proposed Current Topic" below) (3-5 sentences)
4. *Conclusion*—Sign off politely, perhaps by asking recipient to contact you if he or she has further questions (1-2 sentences)
5. *Your name*—type your full name and contact information at the bottom, in case the recipient’s server does not provide it at the top

The proposal **MUST** also include a pdf version of the main paper as an attachment.

Form

Points to remember:

- Place one blank line between each paragraph
- Maintain a formal, polite tone throughout (“you” and “we” are acceptable)
- Use a professional return address for yourself
- Create a short title that includes the class number (ECE 3940) and the word “Proposal”
- Follow the formatting in the “E-Mail Proposal Example” handout

Journals

Identify **four journals** that publish articles related to electrical and computer engineering. You may state that you have examined volumes from these journals in your search for a current topic. Two of these journals must be published by IEEE, and the other two must come from non-IEEE academic/professional archived, refereed, article sources. (Avoid "magazines".) Include access information for these journals. Are they available online? Does the University library subscribe to them in hardcopy? What is the primary method of accessing the journal?

For example: (this journal might publish articles on effects of transmitted signals on organisms) *Journal of Biological Physics*. Full-text PDFs of articles and editions from 2003 to present (excluding current year) available online through EBSCO host. Editions from 1975 to present

(including current year) available online through publisher at www.springerlink.com, full-text PDFs available for select articles and editions.

Proposed Current Topic

From the journals surveyed, identify one current article (published within the last year) dealing with a technical electrical and computer engineering problem or technical electrical and computer engineering issue of particular interest to you. Choose an article with some equations in it, indicating that it has sufficient technical content to allow you to use in your technical presentation later on. In that presentation, you must describe the key technical concept detailed in your chosen paper.

After choosing a main article, select, retrieve, and read two additional relevant articles that are cited in the bibliography of the main article. These two additional papers should contain key background information that will help you understand the main article. State the topic you have selected and list the **three references**, (one for main article, and two for the articles cited by your main article), that you are using. Give full citations using IEEE syntax (but not typeface) and a PDF attachment of the main article you have identified. Note that you will write a review of the main article and give a presentation on your review later on in the course. The course instructor must approve the selected topic. The instructor may require you to find a new topic and submit a revised proposal.

Proposal Grading

- 1) Content and form
- 2) Complete list of journals
- 3) Appropriate topic
- 4) References for selected topic