

# IS390S Rough Draft

The purpose of a rough draft is, ultimately, to get words on the page. If your outline is well structured, it can really help prompt you to talk about the right things in the right order, and make the writing much faster. However, you should probably expect your position to change as you write. I recommend writing out a couple sentences that state your basic argument or position, then following the planned sequence of your outline to write the rest of the paper, then revisiting the original thesis statement and adjusting it if it has evolved as you write. For a rough draft, there is no need to go back and edit the rest of the paper to fit the final thesis. You should think of a draft as a collection of loosely connected sections that can be cut out, rearranged, and fit back together in subsequent drafts. It does not matter if the overall logic or structure is inconsistent.

Although fiction does not have a “thesis,” the same principle can apply if you write down what effect you are trying to achieve with your story.

For those with a programming component, the analogue to a written draft can be a minimum viable prototype of your final objective that demonstrates the viability of the final idea, but perhaps does not have all of the final features.

If you have any questions about how to conceptualize a draft of your project if it is not in a medium addressed above (or for questions in general), please send me an email.

## 1 Due Date & Upload Instructions

The rough draft is due Friday, November 16 by 11:59 pm. Please upload a Microsoft Word (or LibreOffice) document by attaching it to the assignment item in Sakai under “Assignments.” Please title that document with your last name, an underscore, and the word “draft” (e.g. smith\_draft.doc). If you are working in a group, use both names in alphabetical order (e.g. doe\_smith\_draft.doc) and have each member of the group submit a copy of the hand in.

## **2 Assignment**

There are two items required for this assignment: the rough draft of your project, and a status report reflecting on how that project is progressing:

### **2.1 Draft (5 pages)**

Your draft should be:

- at least 5 pages
- double spaced
- 12 point, Times New Roman font
- 1" margins.

There is no upper limit on the page count. For groups doing projects that involve non written components, unless I noted otherwise in my response to your outline, the project you have proposed sounds sufficiently substantive. If your project evolves, or you have specific questions, please send me an email.

### **2.2 Status Report**

Along with your draft, you should submit a status report consisting of two short paragraphs detailing the current status of your project. This can be appended to the end of your draft document on a new page:

#### **2.2.1 Paragraph 1: What is working (100 words)**

In this paragraph, please explain which parts of your draft or project you think are going well, or you are most satisfied with.

#### **2.2.2 Paragraph 2: What are you still working on (100 words)**

In this paragraph, please explain which parts of your draft or project are giving you the most trouble, and what you are still working on or thinking about with respect to those sections.

### **3 Revision Policy**

As per general course policy, as long as you hand in a draft by the initial due date that meets the basic length requirements, you can continue to revise it, with feedback, until it passes, up until the last day of class.