

Essay Instructions

You will write an essay with three primary ingredients:

- A subproblem of program comprehension (e.g., understanding change impact)
- 2 tools/approaches that address the subproblem (2 papers by different authors)
- 3 papers covered in the first half of the course

In particular, your essay must describe how the tools do or do not effectively address the subproblem. Analyze the various aspects of the subproblem and the features of the tools. Use the 3 previously covered papers to support your arguments.

Your essay must satisfy the following requirements. Failure to do so will result in deductions.

- Submit via the **Essay** Dropbox in eCourseware.
- Submit as a PDF, using the LaTeX template previously emailed to you.
- 3000-word minimum—not including front matter and references. (See Word's **Word Count** feature.)
- Reference at least 8 conference papers or journal articles. (Books, webpages, etc. do not count.) Although your paper should emphasize 5 papers on program comprehension, you must reference at least 3 other papers (which may or may not be specifically about program comprehension) in making your argument(s).
- Use correct spelling. (Use a spellchecker.)
- Use correct grammar. (Have someone proofread your work.)
- Use the styles/formatting provided by the template.
- Convey your ideas in a clear and concise manner. (See the myriad of writing guides available on the Web and in your local library.)
- The Dropbox automatically does plagiarism detection. You must score no higher than 20%; if you do, you will earn 0 points on the essay. Do not copy/paste text into your document. Always paraphrase when borrowing ideas from other documents.