

COP4020 Paper and Presentation

General paper and presentation requirements

You are to produce a paper and a presentation comparing and contrasting two programming languages.

You can choose two programming languages that are closely related to each other, such as C and D, or you can choose two unrelated programming languages, such as Forth and Haskell. Please see the list of acceptable languages on the web page for this assignment. The list is not entirely exclusive – you are welcome to do another programming language if you like, but you must review your choice with your TA or with me if you do decide to do one not on the list.

The only languages that I am ruling out are C++ and Python; having given this assignment several times, I find that too many students want to do these two languages, probably because these are more familiar to them. You may not use either C++ or Python for this assignment, and please do not ask me or the TAs to approve either of these languages.

For reference material, you will need to find resources for your presentation, such as textbooks, web sources, and technical papers. You must delineate your work from your sources: this means that you must use quote marks or block quote when you make quotes.

Plagiarism and other academic honor violations

In all cases, you must document all of the places in your paper where you use others' words and ideas with clear citations.

Both failure to use quote marks or block quotes when using others' words and failure to use citations are both significant violations of FSU's Academic Honor Policy (please see the class syllabus for a link to the policy and for the class policies on violations of FSU's AHP), and will be handled using the steps outlined in the AHP.

Technical aspects

Your paper should be produced with \LaTeX ; please do not use Word or other WYSIWYG system.

The MLA Handbook is a great resource for writing papers; it also now devotes an entire chapter to the subject of plagiarism and academic honesty, if you need guidance. However, you do not have to use the MLA format; please use \LaTeX 's default bibtex style for your paper and its references.

Paper evaluation

The paper should be written using \LaTeX , and have the following characteristics:

1. A title page (with title, author, and date).
2. A short abstract that summarizes the paper in one paragraph.

3. An introduction that briefly gives the history of the two programming languages.
4. A section giving the advantages of each language.
5. A section giving the similarities of the two languages.
6. A section explaining the differences in the two languages
7. A conclusion, giving your thoughts on each programming language.
8. A bibliography with references to papers and web sites you consulted.

The rubric for the paper will be on a 100 point scale:

1. Structural: title, introduction, conclusions, and layout of sections. (20 points)
2. Completeness of references in bibliography. (20 points)
3. Depth and thoroughness of your research. (20 points)
4. Accuracy of your observations. (20 points)
5. Clarity of writing and use of correct grammar. (20 points)

The entire paper should be at least six pages of text, though of course you are welcome to write more. You should have at least five references.

The paper will be submitted via Canvas to TurnItIn, and is due by 11:59pm on Friday, November 8.

You can submit a reasonably complete draft on Canvas for review. Doing so will give you 1 point of class participation, but will not otherwise affect your grade. Drafts may be submitted until 11:59pm October 20.

As an alternative to submitting a draft on Canvas, you can also come by my office hours for draft review; you may do this until November 1.

Presentation Evaluation

The evaluation of the quality of the presentation (as well as the paper) will take into account the originality, relevance, and currency of information that you present, as well as the clarity of the presentation. The presentation will be scored using the following rubric:

Grading criteria for oral presentations (100 pts possible):

1. Quality and content of personal introduction (0 to 10).
2. Student is within the prescribed time limits of 9 to 11 minutes (0 or 10).
3. Student speaks audibly and clearly (0 to 10).
4. Student's visual aid is appropriately used and enhances the presentation (0 to 10).
5. Student presentation is well organized (0 to 20).
6. Student addresses all issues mentioned in the topic description (0 to 20).
7. Student explains the material well, going appropriately in depth given time constraints (0 to 20).

Presentations will be given during the recitation sections in November and December.

ADA accommodations

If you have current ADA accommodations that preclude your doing the presentation to your recitation section, please meet with me during the week of October 7-11 so that I can provide you an alternative.