

Posting first drafts of term papers

Deadline: Please submit your first draft by the deadline as students in your peer review group are counting on having a week to read and comment on your draft. To encourage you to get your draft posted on time, submissions after the deadline will be marked late and final grades on this assignment will be penalized 1% per hour late.

What to post: You do not need to have written all of the sections of your paper by then. But in general, the more you can post at this point, the more the reviewers can comment on and help you make your final draft the best it can be.

Your first drafts should minimally include:

- descriptive papers (synchronic or diachronic), or problem set: background and data sections
- literature surveys: at least 2 of the 3 articles you are discussing (regardless of how you are organizing your survey)
- all papers: overall organization of the paper as you envision it at the time of submission of the first draft. The important thing is to show where you intend to go, even if you don't have time to develop certain sections by the time the first draft is due. You can do this by including the headings of the sections that you intend to write, but perhaps have not fleshed out by then. (You can write [to be written] [or notes to yourself on what you intend to include in the section] below the section heading.) That way, the readers of your first drafts can see where you are headed with your paper (the ever-important big picture) and what other information will eventually be provided. You can also summarize the structure of your paper with a draft table of contents if you like.

Before you post your paper, it would be a good idea to reread my document on the term paper assignment, as well as Fritz Newmeyer's hints on good writing in linguistics.

File name conventions: To minimize confusion of readers (especially me) while downloading and managing these drafts, please name your file as follows:

(your last name)_draft1.pdf
e.g. Carlson_draft1.pdf

Where to post: Around the first draft posting deadline I will divide the class into as many groups as there are term paper writers, and will create a "peer review" group for each of you. Ideally, I will assign students to each group on the basis of their language backgrounds and interests but that may not always be possible.

I'll let you know the URL for the CollectIt site to post your term paper first drafts on later. Everyone in the class will be able to download papers from that CollectIt site.

After first drafts are posted: The members of the group assigned to review your paper will then have a week to read the first draft of your paper and write comments on it. CollectIt sites for each term paper commentary will be created, and you will be able to download the comments that are uploaded on your paper. You will then have about 5 days to read the comments and prepare a response to them: what you agree with changing, and what you disagree with. Then I will read your first draft, comments, and your response to the comments and add my comments.