

Things to include:

1. Refined topic / Area & motivation
 - 1-2 sentences on the focus; 3-5 keywords; **why this matters?**
2. Research questions (RQs) / Hypotheses
 - Numbered RQs/Hs with brief operationalization (what counts as evidence).
3. Expanded annotated bibliography
 - Build what you've submitted for the *background research brief*; for each source:
 - citation
 - main contribution
 - method/data
 - how it informs your research design
4. Dataset details
 - Source(s), size, splits, inclusion/exclusion of data points (if there's any), licensing/permissions (if there's any)
5. Methods & Tools
 - Baseline approach and planned improvements (e.g., models, features, prompts, libraries).
6. NLP experiment plan
 - Metrics, baseline vs. improved system, ablation/robustness check, and error-analysis plan.
7. Evaluation & Analysis
 - What you will measure/compare; baselines; expected tables/figures (e.g., confusion matrix, per-label F1).
8. Work plan (Timeline & Roles)
 - Milestones with dates; team roles and owned tasks.
9. Expected contribution & Risks
 - What's novel/useful; 1-2 key risks (if there's any) and mitigation strategies.
10. Questions for feedback (*optional*)
 - Questions you want answered related to your project.

Tentative rubric (50 points; 10% of final grade)

Criterion	Points	Exemplary (full credit)	Proficient (-1–2 pts)	Developing (-3–4 pts)	Missing (0)
Refined topic / motivation	4	Focus is precise; 3-5 aligned keywords; clear, course-relevant motivation.	Slightly broad or generic motivation.	Vague focus or mismatched keywords.	Not provided.
RQs / Hypotheses + operationalization	8	1-3 clear, testable RQs/Hs; measurable variables and success criteria stated.	Clear RQs/Hs; partial operationalization.	Broad/descrip- tive RQs; little/no operationaliza- tion.	Not provided.
Expanded annotated bibliography	8	High-quality sources; each has contribution, method/data, and design relevance.	Minor gaps in summaries or relevance.	Generic summaries; weak links to design.	Not provided.
Dataset details	6	Names/links, size, splits, inclusion/exclusion, licensing; choices justified.	Most details present; minor omissions.	Key details missing (e.g., size/splits/licen- sing).	Not provided.
Methods & Tools	6	Baseline and improved approach clearly specified and justified; feasible with resources.	Present but light on justification or feasibility.	Only baseline or only improved; unclear rationale.	Not provided.
NLP experiment plan (required)	10	appropriate metrics; baseline vs. improved; ablation/robustness; error-analysis plan; reproducibility steps.	Includes most elements; one is thin (e.g., ablation plan).	Major element missing (e.g., metrics or baseline).	Not provided.
Evaluation & Analysis plan	4	What will be compared; expected tables/figures; criteria for interpreting results.	Comparisons defined but outputs/interpretati- on vague.	High-level only; unclear outputs.	Not provided.
Work plan (timeline & roles)	2	Milestones with dates; clear ownership.	Dates or ownership partially specified.	Vague milestones or roles.	Not provided.
Expected contribution & risks	2	Concrete novelty/impact; key risk + mitigation.	States either contribution or risk, not both.	Vague statements.	Not provided.