

Homework 5 and Paper 3

Chris Potts, Ling 390a: Controlling the Discourse, Fall 2007

Distributed Dec 5;

Homework 5 due Dec 14; Paper 3 due by midnight on Dec 21

Homework 5

This homework is a component of the final paper. If you do it carefully and comprehensively, you will be able to insert it unchanged into Paper 3.

Preliminary You need to have at least 20 completed questionnaires.

Tasks

- i. Organize your data using a spreadsheet program. Include a printout of this data with your assignment. (It will pay off to use a spreadsheet program for this, so that you can easily reorganize your data. The more detailed the spreadsheet is, the better off you'll be.)
- ii. Analyze your data, using one of the methods we discussed during the week December 10. Present this analysis as clearly and specifically as you can.
- iii. Say whether, or to what extent, your data support your hypothesis, and explain this conclusion in a few sentences.

Paper 3

Your aim for this paper should be to present the results of your questionnaire study (warts and all).

You are very strongly encouraged to use the following basic design. (The bold terms are excellent section headings for this kind of write-up.)

- i. **Introduction:** Emphasize the goals of your study and provide the contextual information one needs to understand it. (You might be able to adapt Paper 2 material for this.)
- ii. **Hypothesis:** State your hypothesis, and try to help the reader understand how it works and why it seems useful. (You might be able to adapt Paper 2 material for this.)
- iii. **Methods:** A description of how the study worked
 - a. the instructions given
 - b. a sample of the test conditions
 - c. the basics of who your subjects were (e.g., undergraduates at UMass Amherst; no names, and no need for specifics)
 - d. the time-span in which you conducted your study
 - e. the number of subjects you had
 - f. other notes (if, for example, some of your subjects' data, or some questions, had to be thrown out, you can briefly describe why that had to be done)
- iv. **Analysis of the data:** You can bring in parts (ii)-(iii) from Homework 5. Expand on them as necessary. This is the place to discuss any problems that arose in your study, to justify excluding any subjects or test conditions, and to provide alternative analyses of the data.

This section is the hardest and most important. Its overall structure will depend on what happened in your study. Whether your experiment worked or not, I am going to look to this section to see how thoughtfully and carefully you conducted the research.
- v. **Conclusion:** This should summarize your analysis, an especially important step if the previous section is messy. You should also use this space to describe improvements or extensions. Concentrate on improvements if the study didn't go well, and concentrate on extensions if it was successful.
- vi. **Appendix:** A sample of your questionnaire(s) (not filled out), and a printout of your spreadsheet (from Assignment 5).