Selected Topics in Sentiment Analysis: How to write a term paper

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Acknowledgements:

The slides are basically a summary of the document *Wie schreibt man eine Hausarbeit?* by Prof. Manfred Pinkal and Andrea Horbach (*there is a link on the course webpage*).
Purpose of a Term Paper

- To show that you have understood the topic (paper) given to you.
- To show that you know how to do scientific writing.
Who is the Addressee of Your Term Paper?

• Actually it is your instructor.
• BUT: better write this as if you addressed your fellow students who have not attended the (pro)seminar.
• Why?
  • Your instructor already knows the work you are going to write about.
Outline of Your Term Paper

• General outline:
  • Introduction
  • Main part
  • Conclusion
Outline of Your Term Paper

• **Introduction:**
  • What is the topic?
  • What is the concrete research task?
  • What is the motivation for doing this kind of research?
  • Give a brief outline how the rest of the paper is structured.
Outline of Your Term Paper

• Main part:
  • The actual content
  • The most important thing: train of thought must be clearly visible.
  • Hint: the structure of the paper(s) you summarize need not be best for your term paper (→ different audience).
  • Have subsections!
Outline of Your Term Paper

• Conclusion:
  • Summarize the task.
  • Summarize the proposed approach.
  • Where did the proposed approach succeed?
  • What are the limitations of the approach?
  • What could be proposed as future work?
Literary Research

• In a proseminar, it suffices to use the literature given to you.
• However, if you include further literature then this will certainly be regarded as a plus of your course work.
• The choice of further literature needs to be approved of by your instructor in advance.
Structure of the Term Paper

• Your paper should have the following structure:
  • Cover
  • Table of contents
  • List of figures *(if applicable)*
  • *the actual content*
  • Bibliography
  • Appendix *(optional)*
Structure of the Term Paper

• Best way to enforce that structure:
  • Use LaTeX
  • Even better: use the Latex-template on the course webpage.
Importance of Examples/Illustrations

• Examples and illustrations are important in order to convey your content.
• They can be much more effective than a mere textual description!
• Do not restrict yourself to those examples/illustrations from the paper(s) you present.
• Example sentences should be indexed.
Tables, Formulas and Figures

- Purpose is to visualize important content.
- You need to address every table/formula/figure in your text.
- Have a caption for every table/formula/figure.
- Index them; address the tables/formulas/figures in the text by their index!
- **Hint:** LaTeX is very helpful in enforcing this!
Writing Style

• Write the paper in your own words!
• Use the 1st person (singular or plural) in order to present your own thoughts.
• Use the 3rd person for reporting other people‘s thoughts.
• Avoid excessive unpersonal writing style (e.g. all sentences in passive voice).
Writing Style

• Use a formal writing style.
• Copying/extending your presentation slides is certainly inadequate!
• Use linguistic terminology.
• Introduce new terminology the first time you mention it.
• See that you use (and spell) your terminology consistently.
Citations

• Everything what is not your own idea, thought, statement etc. needs to be marked as such.

• In case there is some concrete literature from where you have got that content, then make an entry in your bibliography.

• Otherwise, state the source
  • in brackets or
  • add its URL as a footnote
Bibliography

• Have a consistent format for entries in your bibliography.
• Easiest way to ensure this: LaTeX (more specifically bibTeX).
• Bibliography must only contain publications that are explicitly cited in your term paper!
Proofreading

• Use spell-checking.
• Use grammar-checking.
• Avoid run-on sentences.
• Avoid orphan lines.
• Check that the cross-references are correctly set.
• Check that your paper has a consistent format.
Proofreading

• Ideally, have someone else proofread your paper.
• It is often more effective to proofread your own paper after a few days rather than proofreading it twice or three times one after the other.
• The paper should be easy to read!
• If the reader has to do much guesswork, you did not do a good job.
Some Formal Issues

- Length: 10-15 pages
- In German or English
- Deadline for term paper: **28th February**
- The only file format that is accepted is **pdf**.
Further Reading

- There is much more detailed information in the document:
  
  \textit{Wie schreibt man eine Hausarbeit?}

- In case you want more literature for your topic, please contact the instructors.