

## **Third Paper Assignment**

( Rewrite Paper 1 or Paper 2 )

*~ Due at the start of lecture on April 22<sup>nd</sup> ~*

Rewriting a paper, as part of the CI requirement, can be an enormously valuable exercise. In order to make it worthwhile, however, you will need to invest some time.

### **What is a rewrite?**

Please keep in mind that “rewrite” is different from “revise.” Instead of simply revising your existing document with a lot of copying and pasting, try to re-order the material and write fresh sentences and paragraphs. Even if you want to use a similar sentence or paragraph, having to retype the material leads to better prose. But similar paragraphs should be minimized; to the greatest extent possible, your rewrite should be different and improved.

### **Which paper to rewrite?**

Your TA might make a recommendation, but the choice is yours. Choose the one that interests you more, or offers the best opportunities for improvement.

### **How to make it better?**

Look again at the original assignment, and how you answered it. Look at the comments from your TA and then speak with your TA about them. Brainstorm more about the topic in light of new material that has been presented in the course. Revisit the Readings, or do new ones. Once you have done this, create a new and improved answer to the assignment: reconceived, restructured, making new and better arguments, with more complete and relevant data. Any paper, no matter how good initially, can be improved dramatically with enough thought and effort.

### **Grading:**

The rewrite does not replace an existing grade, instead it is an independent grade (20%). The standards are much higher for the rewrite than for the original paper. If you make only superficial revisions (e.g. fixing typos, adding occasional sentences in response to TA’s comments), your grade will drop. If you dutifully respond to most comments, but show no rewriting initiative, your grade will likely stay the same. To get a better grade, you have to use the feedback and invest the time to produce something significantly better.

### **Mechanics:**

Everyone should meet one-on-one with their TA to make sure that expectations are clear and that you have a viable plan. Make good use of Louise Harrison Lepera and the MIT Writing Center to produce the best possible paper.

\*\*\* Please submit the original, commented paper with your rewritten submission \*\*\*

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