CSE/ISE 300 Communication  F11

- Time: Tue/Thur 5:20-6:40PM
- Location: Room 102  Light Engineering
- Required Book: The Elements of Style, 4th edition (2000), Authors: Strunk and White $10 (or $4 2007 reprint by Coyote)
- Online Technical Writing, Author: David A. McMurrey  http://www.io.com/~hcexres/textbook/
- Instructor: Professor Larry Wittie
- Office: CS Building, Room 1308
- Phone: 631-632-8750  (not 2-8456)
- Email: lw@ic.sunysb.edu
- Office Hours: 3:45-5:15PM Tue & Thu or by appointment
- Course Homepage: http://www.cs.sunysb.edu/~lw/teaching/cse300
First in-class writing assignment today - one-page My Weekend with Irene
One to 1.3 pages, Margins - 1.25 inch each edge
Medium line lengths – 60 characters per full line
Proper spacing - space & a half for your papers

Start in class today

Put the title My Weekend with Irene at top of a page.
Put your name on your paper after the title.

List 2 to 4 phrases about ideas for your paper.
Write a few sentences expanding each of your ideas.

Hand your paper to me up front at the end of class.

I will copy all sheets and put originals outside the door of 1308 CompSci tonight.

Bring a printed 1 to 1.3 page draft of your paper to class Tuesday to edit and to hand in. Your completed paper is due Tuesday 9/13/2011 for formal grading.
CSE/ISE 300

Common Errors in 5-Page Papers Submitted Previously

There were only two fatal problems for cse/ise300 papers
Students who did not submit a paper at all got an F (fail).
Students who submitted plagiarized papers got an F (fail).

What is a plagiarized paper?
One substantially copied from someone else without credit.
In practice, papers in which most of the ideas are found in one
or two other papers even though many of the words have
been changed; OR
Papers which include substantial numbers of phrases or
sentences copied word-for-word from other works without
quotation marks and without credit to each source.

Please remember to number your pages (also if you resubmit).
CSE/ISE 300

Common Errors: Purpose of the Paper Is Unclear

The first page of a paper must give the reader a 1- or 2-sentence overview of what the paper will discuss.

If the title and first few sentences in a technical paper are not interesting, only the writer’s mother will try to read it. The first one or two paragraphs in a scientific paper are known as the paper’s abstract.

I wore my favorite winter boots today. They are warm and comfortable.

The last page of a paper must give the reader a 1- or 2-paragraph reminder saying what are the important topics and discoveries discussed in the whole paper.

If the abstract is interesting, most readers of technical papers skip to the end to read the conclusion section to learn the important results found in the paper.
CSE/ISE 300
Common Errors: Repeated Sentences and Phrases

Some writers repeat a few long phrases many times.
I help them to find alternate (and shorter) phrases or to delete the repeated phrases. Repeated words and phrases make papers boring and hard to read. Empty words cannot bloat three pages into four acceptable pages.

Some writers repeat nearly the same sentence in two or more parts of the paper.
I delete repeated sentences and paragraphs, which must not count in the 150+ lines for a 5-page paper. If your paper is too short because of deleted repeats, try hard not to make errors in the new material that you add to reach 150-lines/5-pages.

Some writers start sentences with redundant connectors.
I delete *Also, And, Or, But, So, Thus, Therefore, Then, …*
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Common Errors: English Grammar Problems

Verb tenses (action times) change (often randomly) from past-time to present-time to past to present to past …

Contractions (I’m, I’ve, didn’t, can’t) in formal writing. Spell them fully (I am, I have, did not, cannot) except in quotations.

Run-on sentences - two complete sentences - each with its own subject and verb - are joined by a comma (,), not separated by a period (.).

A sentence fragment - part of a sentence and usually a very long when or because or since or as or whether clause - is given a final period as if it were a sentence.
Verb tenses (action times) change (often randomly) from past-time to present-time to past to present to past …

To fix the error: When telling a story that happened in the past, use the past tense or past-perfect tense forms of verbs when your sentences are part of the story time.

I saw (yesterday = past) that he had painted (before yesterday = past-perfect) the fence before I arrived (yesterday = past) home.

To fix the error: When you shift your thoughts to what you or others are doing now - long after the story time - use the present tense forms of verbs in your sentences.

I see (present tense) by your boots that you are (present tense) a cowboy.
CSE/ISE 300
First Paper - My Weekend with Irene

Your printed complete paper is due in class next Tuesday 9/13/11. Put the title and your name at the top. The paper should be 1.0 page (30+ lines) to 1.3 pages (~40 lines) in length, with lines spaced 1.5 (between single and double spaced), text lines at least 6 inches wide, and about 15 words per line. Use font 12 or larger. The title, your name, and blank lines do not count in the required 30+ lines. Aim for 36 lines of text to be safe.

Email a copy of your finished paper to lw@ic.sunysb.edu with the Subject: 300 paper 1 - My Weekend with Irene.

What happened to you on Saturday and Sunday during hurricane Irene? How did you prepare? What did you do? What did you see and hear?