

6.033 Spring 2013

DP1 Proposal, CI guidelines
Spring 2013

A design proposal is typically used to propose a particular solution to a problem. It explains how the author's design works, demonstrates that the design meets all the requirements, and if necessary shows how the author's design is superior to others. As in a professional environment (and unlike a problem set) we ask you to clearly lay out the problem, then match your solution to that problem description. You should be able to characterize your proposed system at a high level and describe your proposed implementation and how it will meet requirements. Use technical language as appropriate, but write for an audience outside your specific field. The DP1 Proposal should be no more than 800 words.

- Title** names/describes your proposed project.
 - I.e. "Provenance Tracking in the Unix File System" not "6.033 DP1"
- Overview** presents the problem and your solution.
 - Explain the problem to be solved by your design
 - Summarize your proposed solution, including your overall design approach
 - Specify how your design solves the problem and meets requirements
- Design description** gives a fuller presentation of your design, demonstrating to your reader that your design will work and will solve the problem.
 - Uses some hierarchy (subsections, logical groupings of material) and briefly introduces each subsection
 - Organizes and introduces implementation by task or function, not by I/O
 - Describes the design's interface
 - Specifies your plan for implementation
 - Explains how the interface will be used by applications
 - Includes one titled, labeled, captioned figure which illustrates a challenging concept
 - If bullet lists are used they are always introduced with a few sentences
- Conclusion** briefly summarizes how your design will meet the requirements, and notes problems which remain to be resolved.
 - May be a separate section or may be the final paragraph
- Overall** the language of your report should be professional but not legal or bureaucratic.
 - We expect correct grammar and syntax, careful proofreading, and visually appealing layout