What is a Project Report?

- Project report ≠ documentation
- A project report should tell
  - What is your project?
  - Why did you choose the project?
  - How did you conduct the project?
  - What are the results/products/lessons of the project?
- A way to evaluate your technical writing skills

Abstract

- Tell the whole story in 100 to 200 words
- A good abstract
  - Let people know you've done good work
  - Make people want to read more

Introduction Section

- A more elaborated version of the abstract
- Focuses on
  - Motivation
  - Project highlights
Technological Background
- Introduce the tools/libraries/platforms you used to build your project.
- The purpose is to help people understand your project, i.e. *not* advertisement for the technologies.
  - Assume your readers are students who just took CS202.
  - Be clear about the connections between different pieces.

System Overview
- The **Big Picture** of your project.
- Descriptions of the interaction between different components, overall work flow, etc.

Design and Implementation ...
- Design (or feature design), is how things should be.
  - E.g. The system supports several types of users ...
- Implementation is how things are done.
  - E.g. Each user type is implemented as a subclass of a User class ..

... Design and Implementation
- Writing about design and implementation is not easy.
  - Choose the right *level of details*.
- Topics that are usually interesting and/or important.
  - Performance.
  - Security.
  - Improvement of user experience.
- Insights, insights, insights.

System Evaluation
- Results produced.
- Comparison with other systems.
- Load testing.

Conclusion Section
- Reiterate your achievements.
- Emphasize lessons learned and insights gained.
Appendices

- API documentation
- Database schema
- User manual
- Source code
- ...

Some Technical Writing Do’s and Don’ts

- Use formal language
- Use diagrams and figures
- Use tables
- Don’t overuse pictures and screenshots
- Don’t overuse bullets
- Don’t overuse passive voice
- Use “We” instead of “I”

Past CS491 Reports

- All CS491 project reports are available at http://cs.calstatela.edu/abet/cs491/index.htm

  Some good reports
  - Matthew’s ProgFest 2005 Platform
  - Chris’s Deep Space 2
  - Andrew’s CodeSimian
  - Cheralyn’s Cupboard 2.0
  - Christopher’s LemGen
  - Kelly’s Content-based Image Organization

More Good Reports

- Andres’s 3D Surface Explorer
- Eugene’s Project Black Widow