

# Final project

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## 1 Project details

Blogs provide a platform to communicate papers and ideas in an approachable way. Scientific blogs have also provided a community-driven medium for people to quickly and openly discuss and share knowledge. For the class, we aim to create a collection of blog posts ourselves! In addition to the written blogs, you will share your insights in a poster session where you can present your blog as a poster.

You can work in groups of up to 2 but will be expected to put in twice as much effort if you do.

**What we expect.** The goal of the blog is to give an easy and insightful explanation of a topic of your choice. What we expect is a combination of an accessible account of one (or more) paper(s), plus some *new material*. For instance, you can pick one paper, explain it in the blog, and add new intuitive explanations, new toy experiments that clarify what is going on, or even interactive content. An example reference we like is [distill.pub](#). You may also have a look at [last year's projects](#). Compared to (some of) last year's blogs, we expect the project to involve writing some code (e.g., for experiments or illustrations). The paper(s) can be on any topic that we discussed in class, but should not be one of the required readings we assigned (the optional readings are fair game).

Or, as an alternative, you may ask a specific question that you answer with the help of multiple papers, e.g., how a certain challenge has been addressed across the literature. You may also compare two different approaches to a problem. This list of options is not exhaustive – talk to us if you have another idea.

**Evaluation.** The blogs will be graded by clarity and content. We will also include the presentation at the poster session, again by content and clarity.

### Timeline:

1. **Submit proposal** [10% of grade] (**Due: November 10, 1pm**): Submit a proposal of the paper(s) you are planning to write a blog on. Provide a half-page outline of what you are planning to cover in the blog and how you will cover it. You may select either a single paper or a series of paper on a specific topic. You may cover paper(s) that you are an author on but the work for the blog will need to be novel to this class; please email us to discuss if you want to go this route. We will provide feedback on Canvas, and feel free to come to office hours to discuss as necessary.
2. **Submit blog** [75% of grade] (**Due: December 8, 1pm**): We will be using the ICLR blog format (see details [here](#)). The length should be enough to cover the content such that your peers in the class would have a good understanding of the key concepts in the paper(s), or the answers to the question(s) you posed, after reading the blog – typically this requires around 2000 words or more but we will not be strict about length. Follow the directions [here](#). Your code should be self-contained. Submit the whole directory as

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a `.zip` or `.tar` to Canvas.

(**Note:** after giving you feedback, we are planning to host the blogs online! If you want your name to be anonymized, please indicate that when submitting).

3. **Present poster (December 8 and 13, 1pm)** [15% of grade]: You will be presenting your blog as a poster, too, and discuss the other students' works with them at the poster session. Everyone is required to attend both poster sessions. We will assign groups to days at random. Posters will be graded based on clarity of the poster itself as well as clarity of your presentation of the poster when the instructors/TAs come by to see it.