

Final Project Help Session

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CAS CS 505: Natural Language Processing

Spring 2026

Boston University

Admin

- Your final projects are due **May 7** at 11:59pm. *Late submissions will not be accepted!*
- No regular office hours next week!
 - Use Piazza for questions with specific answers
 - If you'd like to chat, please email me directly to set up a time to chat
 - (There will still be office hours tomorrow at the usual time.)

General Expectations

- See the rubric on Gradescope for general guidelines.
- A good default outline for empirical projects:
 - Clear motivation and research questions
 - One or two main experiments
 - One or two follow-up analyses
 - Clear discussion of results
- Ideally, your reports should be approaching the quality of a write-up that could be submitted to a workshop with about a month or two of extra effort
 - Check out papers from last year's student research workshop: <https://aclanthology.org/volumes/2025.acl-srw/>
 - I don't expect the class projects to be nearly as polished or full of experiments, but this is a good goal to aim for!

Is our plan enough?

- For most of you, yes.
- If not, your midway report feedback should hopefully make it clear what's needed.
- If you won't be able to complete all of your planned changes, you'll need to prioritize.
 - This happens to us professionals on a regular basis. :)
 - Generally, good metrics and improving the overall experimental design are far more important than adding another model/task dataset.

Integrating Midway Report Feedback

- I aimed to keep feedback within a reasonable scope; you are generally expected to integrate at least some of it
 - You don't necessarily need all of it, but you should address anything urgent.
- Keep in mind that some feedback was necessary (e.g., "You should do X"), and other feedback was more of a suggestion (e.g., "Consider X"). I tried to make it clear which was which, but if you're unsure, please ask

Examples

- Check out the ACL 2025 Student Research Workshop proceedings: <https://aclanthology.org/volumes/2025.acl-srw/>
 - These papers took more time than a course project, but the general outlines may be helpful while you're deciding how to structure your thoughts

Publishing Your Final Project

- If you are interested in doing this, send me an email after the semester ends and we can discuss!
- Typically, this takes a few months of extra effort, and there's still only a chance it will work out. Regardless, you will likely learn a lot, and will almost certainly end up with something to show for your work if you stick with it

Final FAQs