CSCE 181
Technical Writing II
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Lecture 4: 22 September 2009

http://elearning.tamu.edu
http://courses.cse.tamu.edu/taylor/csce181/
Class Participation

• Class Attendance
  » Must be present within the first 15 minutes of class, by 2:35pm
  » Respect for speakers
  » Get the most out of class

• Questions
  » Check your grades to insure that we recorded your questions (1 - attendance; 2 - questions)
    - Excluding technical writing workshops
This Class

- Style (chapters 1-4) Review
- Writing exercises
  - Focus on paragraphs
- Plagiarism (chapter 13)
- On your own:
  - Editing (chapter 8)
  - Writing (chapter 9)
Style/Tone

• Text should be concise and to the point
• Be objective and accurate
  » Have one idea per paragraph
  » Have a simple, logical organization
  » Use short words
  » Keep paragraphs short
  » Avoid buzzwords, cliché’s, and slang
  » Omit any unnecessary material
  » Be specific, not vague or abstract
  » Use active voice
Currently, all computer systems include computer chips that have more than one processor. The ability to use all of the processors simultaneously is necessary to reduce execution time. In this paper, we present three techniques that use all processors simultaneously for database applications.
Paragraphs

• Consists of a discussion on a single topic or issue.

• Outline or argument is typically captured in the first sentence of a paragraph.

• Every sentence in a paragraph should be on the topic announced in the opening.

• The last sentence has a higher impact than those in the body; pay attention to sentence order.
Punctuation

• Use periods to end sentences and in abbreviations and acronyms
• Use commas to mark pauses and correct parsing.
• Colons are used to join related statements
• Semicolons can be used to divide a long sentence or set off part of a sentence for emphasis
Plagiarism

- Re-use in one paper of material that has appeared in another paper, without appropriate acknowledgement
- Re-use may involve
  - Ideas
  - Illustrations
  - Results
  - Text
Plagiarism Example

- Original text from Barlman and Trey (2001):

  The impact of viruses has become a major issue in many large organizations, but most still rely on individual users maintaining virus definitions, with no internal firewalls to protect one user from another. However, any structure is only as strong as its weakest link; these organizations are highly vulnerable.
Plagiarism

Viruses have become a major issue in many large organizations, but most organizations still rely on users maintaining virus definitions on their individual computers, with no internal firewalls to protect one computer from another. However, any structure is only as strong as its weakest link; these organizations are highly vulnerable to infection (Barlman and Trey 2001).
Non-plagiarism

As discussed by Barlman and Trey (2001), who investigated the impact of viruses in large organizations, “most still rely on individual users maintaining virus definitions, with no internal firewalls to protect one user from another. However, any structure is only as strong as its weakest link; these organizations are highly vulnerable.”
Barlman and Trey (2001) investigated the impact of viruses in large organizations. They found that organizations are vulnerable if individuals fail to keep virus definitions up to date, as internal firewalls are rare.
Artificial intelligence is an important area of research that is used in many applications, such as game development, to mimic the human intelligence. In this paper, I will address the question of whether current applications that use artificial intelligence truly mimic human intelligence. The focus will be on game applications. In particular, I will identify the AI techniques for three game applications and identify if the given techniques truly mimic human intelligence. My assessment will be based upon the opinions of experts who have analyzed these applications.
Task 2: Write a paragraph

- Topic: US Constitution
  - Supreme law of the United States
  - Provides a framework for the US government and for the relations of the federal government to citizens, and to all people within the United States.
  - Adopted on Sept. 17, 1787 by the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
  - Has been amended 27 times; the first ten amendments are known as the Bill of Rights.
  - The original document, penned by Jacob Shallus, is on display at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C.