

COGS 127: Modern Everyday Cognition
Paper 1: Propose a Personal Informatics / Crowdsourcing Tool

Due date: This paper is due by 11:59pm on Sunday, November 15th

You may form a team of up to 3. Make sure to note all names on the submission.
Please note the “For Teams” requirement below.

Goal of Paper 1

Your goal is to use the principles of personal informatics (or, crowdsourcing) and HCI to propose your own tool. Remember our goal this semester: Think of something **good** to do with this project (health, equality, economy, etc.). Use GroupSource to mock up an interface that you will use to collect data later. In Paper 1 here, you will only describe your tool, your goals, and what’s next.

Structure of the Paper

The paper must be at least 4 full double-spaced pages of text, 1” margins, and no larger than 12pt. font. Please compose your paper with the following structure (the rest is up to you and your creativity).

Introduction: Describe your motivation for the problem you’d like to solve. What are the good questions you are asking, and how would answering them help you or others? What are the benefits? Importantly: Relate this to cognitive science and this class. Make reference to whether your tool is a personal informatics or crowdsourcing tool, and explain why.

Interface: Describe the GroupSource interface and how you assembled your tool. Why did you choose the fields you added? How did you put them in order? How does this help your users enter data smoothly? Please make reference to HCI principles in this part. Though GroupSource is quite simple, you can still use HCI principles to guide your design.

Methods and Goals: Describe how you would use your interface to collect data and carry out your project. Remember: This is hypothetical in this paper, you do not have to collect data at this point. However, you should have an explicit and organized plan for how you’ll do it, and what data you will analyze. Whom will you recruit to enter data in your interface? How many times will each person enter data? What steps do you have to take to make it all happen?

Conclusions: Conclude your paper by discussing potential outcomes or concerns. Feel free to address one or more of these questions: What steps lie before you to run your project? What features or other tool would help you? How can you maximize the amount of data you are going to collect? What would come of this project if you got great results? Who, besides you, might take interest in your results? How will you use Mode to help analyze your data?

Screenshot: On a fifth page of your paper, please include a screenshot of your tool.

Final Notes: The paper must be presented in coherent prose — I prefer not to read point-form descriptions, but rather one smooth narrative.

For Teams: Please include a brief description under your screenshot of how each team member contributed to this project, and assure us that each person invested equally in this paper, and the members will invest to a similar extent in the final project, as well.

Submission and Grading: Each section above (Introduction, Interface, etc.) will be scored up to 5, with points deducted for lacking completeness, coherence, and correctness. You will be able to upload your document on CatCourses as the deadline approaches. Please don’t hesitate to meet with Rick or Maryam anytime to discuss the project.