

Project Milestone Guidelines

CS 5757, Spring 2026

Grading Rubric

The milestone report is worth 10% of your final grade. We are primarily assessing the **clarity of your thinking**, not the maturity of your results—some projects will be further along than others at this stage, and that is completely fine. Your milestone report should be 2-6 pages and submitted on Gradescope (where we'll provide detailed feedback). Each component is graded on the following scale:

Score	Level	Description
4	Excellent	Clear, independent thinking. The reader comes away with a precise understanding of what was done and why.
3	Solid	A coherent line of reasoning that is easy to follow. Some areas could be sharper, but the foundations are sound.
2	Developing	Intent is visible, but the reader must work to reconstruct the logic. Key ideas lack clarity or specificity.
1	Insufficient	Does not reflect meaningful engagement. Major elements are missing, off-target, or too superficial to evaluate.

Your milestone report will be evaluated on the following components:

Component	Weight	Criteria
Problem Statement	25%	Is your problem precisely stated and well-scoped? Is it clear what you are trying to solve and why it matters?
Literature Review	25%	Is the related work discussion relevant and comprehensive? Does it provide a good picture of the existing solution space for this problem?
Proposed Approach	20%	Is your method well-reasoned and connected to course topics? Are key assumptions and design choices stated? Are risks highlighted?
Preliminary Results and Project Plan	20%	If you have preliminary results, are they presented and interpreted clearly? If not, is there a concrete plan with a realistic timeline for the remainder of the semester?
Writing & Organization	10%	Does the introduction frame the problem in context? Is the report clearly written, logically organized, and within the page limit?