Outline for Capstone Paper

Sources

* (Local Copy) <http://course1.winona.edu/cmalone/stat489math480/notes/ResearchPaper_Outline.pdf>
* Originator: Amy Stuart, University of South Florida <http://www.eng.usf.edu/~als/Docs/HowToOutlineAPaper.pdf>
* Purdue OWL: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/544/02/>

Purpose of an outline

* Organization of thoughts
* Synthesize “how your story will be told”
* Provides a framework of the hierarchical relationships that exists in your information

Before constructing an outline

* Conduct a thorough literature review for your research
* Identify the specific goals of your research and have a thorough understanding of the contribution your work will be making
* Have a deep understanding of the relationships that exist between the various elements of your work, e.g. the relationship between a theorem, its corollaries, and an example; or the relationship between a particular data collection method and resulting statistical analysis method, etc.

Writing Effective Outlines

* Construct a complete one-level outline, then reiterate to fill-in details for the two-level outline, then reiterate again to fill-in additional details for a three-level outline
* (Coordination) The headings (within each level) should be of equal importance
* (Subordination) Subsequent levels of an outline should provide more detail and be more specific
* (Parallelism) Use similar grammatical structure, e.g. use verbs or nouns consistently in headings
* (Division) Each heading should contain a minimum of two sub-headings