Literature Search and State-of-the-Art Review

Objective of this assignment is to have each student perform a literature search on a topic you selected / have been assigned for the class term paper. Results of the literature search will be presented in the form of a state-of-art report with reference list (bibliography). Before submitting to the instructor, the reference list should be reproduced so it can be distributed to the class. **The bibliography should contain only those references which the student has actually examined and read.**

The state-of-the-art report should be a summary of the latest knowledge, current issues, and prospects for the future for a particular highway safety topic. The report is intended to give engineers, the media, and interested citizens an up-to-date look at a particular topic. The state-of-the-art report is to be typewritten. Text of the report is to be no longer than 10 double-spaced pages. Any text material after 10 pages will not be read (positively no exceptions) -- this is to force you to think about assembling a concise, well-organized document. The reference list is not included in the 10-page limit; it can be any length (the longer the better).

The form of the bibliography is described below -- consistency and completeness will be expected. Items are to be arranged alphabetically by last names of the authors. Anonymous articles and reports of committees, government documents, etc., are to be arranged alphabetically by title. These should be combined into one alphabetized list:

**Article**

*Author's last name, given name or initials, title of article, journal, volume and number, date, page numbers.*

**Book**

*Author's last name, given name or initials, title of book, the publisher, place of publication, date of publication, page(s)*

On Tuesday, October 22, each student will make a 5 minute (no longer) oral presentation summarizing the state-of-the-art on his or her topic (time-permitting). Copies of reference lists are to be distributed to the class on October 22 (make at least 25 copies). The written report will also be due at this time.

*Remember: literature searches are time consuming; therefore, you are encouraged to begin your work as soon as possible.*
Your grade for this assignment is a part of the overall term paper grade and will be based on four factors. First will be the thoroughness of the literature search, that is, have you examined as many references as possible?... and are the references recent?

The second factor will be the completeness and presentation of the bibliography. This refers to both the number of references in the list and the form in which they are presented. Be sure to avoid misspelled words and typographical errors.

Third evaluation factor will be the state-of-the-art report itself. The report should be concise and well-organized. The subject should be logically developed. Check for grammar and spelling.

The final evaluation criterion will be organization and content of the oral presentation. Things to keep in mind here include: have you introduced your topic clearly, are the main points summarized, have you reviewed the state-of-the-art, and have you stayed within your time limitations? Ask yourself if visual aids are appropriate. If so, have they been used as aids and not the sole reason for the presentation? The instructor will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

REMINDER: Each Student has to independently work on their topic for the term paper, it is NOT a group project.