Project Proposal Outline

The following is an example of how to write an effective proposal for a course project. The purpose of this example is to show basic ideas that can be implemented on any proposal. We came up with an estimated length of every section, and this is based on the assumption that you are writing a 2-5 page proposal.

1. Introduction
    - Sentence to motivate the purpose of your project
    - Give a brief summary of the problem that is 1-2 sentences
    - Give a brief summary of the solution to that problem, also 1-2 sentences
    - Lay out the format for the rest of the proposal. This includes sections or different areas where you emphasize contrasting aspects included in your proposal
2. Motivation
    - How did this problem come to be? What is the history behind the development of this problem?
    - For what reasons is this a problem that deserves attention? How is it significant or interesting?
    - Why does the problem occur, when does it happen, and where can it be located?
    - Are there any solutions to the problem that currently exist? Are they effective?
    - If there are similar solutions to yours, why will yours be more successful?
    - Do you see a way to improve upon current solutions?
    - What do you want to achieve with this project? Do not include specific details, but give a general statement about what this project will accomplish.
3. Project details
    - Environment (2 paragraphs, possibly a bit more)
        i. Give a description of the project environment, including languages, software, and hardware.
        ii. Use diagrams or charts to demonstrate your point, if some are available.
        iii. What types of software and hardware will be used?
    - Issues and challenges for implementation (2-3 paragraphs)
        i. What are some problems and challenges that you perceive will occur in the process?
        ii. In what ways are you using or extending existant tools and systems for your problem?
        iii. What is special about your project? How does it differ from others?
    - Deliverables (up to 5 paragraphs)
        i. What conclusive evidence will the project produce?
        ii. Do your deliverables have different phases or components?
        iii. What features do the project's products have?
    - Timeline (1 paragraph)
        i. What is the estimated timeline for completion of the project?
4. Conclusion
    - Give a summary of the project including the motivation, problem, and solution.
5. References
    - Make sure to include all references used to compile proposal

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