This writing assignment will consist of a 500-1000 word (~1-2 single-spaced pages) report written for a general audience. It should include the following on the top of the first page: (i) your name, (ii) paper title, (iii) course number and course name, and (iv) date. Also, be certain to number the pages (centered at the bottom of page) if your report is more than one page. Possible topics include:

- Sustainable energy for the future
- Future advancements in biotechnology
- Innovation of novel materials
- Any other future developments that chemical engineers are destined to impact.

A draft of your paper (due in Word format by noon on Sept 14 in the ICON assignment folder) will initially be evaluated by staff of the Hanson Center for Technical Communication (30% of the final topical paper grade). The grading matrix will be posted on the ICON course website. You will then be expected to incorporate their feedback in a rewrite, and your final rewrite will be evaluated by Dr. Rundlett (due in Word format by noon on Oct 8 in the ICON assignment folder).

Cite all papers and websites you used and compile a bibliography at the end of your topical paper. (Note that anything you write is either “common knowledge,” your original ideas, or somebody else’s work that must be cited.) For your bibliography, use an appropriate style. For example:


with the citations arranged alphabetically by the first authors. Alternatively:


with the papers numbered by the order in which they are cited. Whichever style you use, be consistent. Be sure to cite these references properly in your topical paper. If you use the first style, you would cite it as (Kline 2000). For the second style, you typically either use a superscript¹ or the citation in brackets (1). Again, be consistent. When in doubt, look it up.

- Remember to give credit where credit is due! Use footnotes or endnotes when quoting (enclose in quotation marks too) and paraphrasing from your sources.

- If you need a refresher on this, please see:

  - The Writing Place at Northwestern University: http://www.writing.northwestern.edu/avoiding-plagiarism/