

Guide to Reviewing and Summarizing Readings in 838P

It is all too easy to read a paper and get nothing out of it. Please follow the guidelines below for each review or summary you submit; the structure will help ensure that you learn something from the process of reading and analyzing each paper.

1 An 838P Review

An 838P review has the following sections:

1. Title and authors of paper
2. **Overview:** one paragraph summary of the paper
3. **Motivation:** a description and critique of the problem the work attempts to solve or clarify
4. **Contribution:** a description and critique of the solution, artifact, insights, or results offered by the paper
5. **Method:** a description and critique of how the work was performed
6. **Evaluation:** a description and critique of how the work was evaluated. In the case of empirical studies, describe and critique the authors' attempts to ensure validity.
7. **This paper was accepted because...** Write 3 sentences that explain, in terms of the motivation, contribution, method, and evaluation described above, why this paper was accepted to its respective conference or journal.
8. **In an alternate universe, this paper was not accepted because...** Suppose this paper was not accepted. Write 3 sentences that explain, in terms of the motivation, contribution, method, and evaluation described above, why this paper was not accepted.

2 An 838P Summary

838P summaries are appropriate for readings that are not research papers.

An 838P summary has the following sections:

1. Title and authors of reading
2. **Overview:** a summary of the reading. There should be one paragraph of summary per ten pages of reading.
3. **Problems:** a description of the software engineering problem(s) described in the reading
4. **Solutions:** a description of the solutions to the software engineering problem(s) described in the reading, if any
5. **Analysis:** your thoughts on the reading