

Assignment 1

Read a research paper of your choice (other than your own) and write a 2–3 page summary that can be understood by any PhD student in your broad field. You can use figures from the paper if you wish (but write your own captions). Choose the formatting wisely.

Criteria:

Clarity and Organization (50 points):

- The document is well-structured and organized logically
- Paragraphs are well-structured, consistent, and cohesive, with clear transitions between ideas
- The writing style is clear and concise, avoids “academese”
- The introduction provides necessary context for the paper
- The methods and results are clearly described
- The conclusion clearly summarizes the main findings

Content (40 points):

- Accurately summarizes the main points of the paper
- Summarizes the paper in an original way (e.g., a different title for the summary, doesn’t just reword the paper)
- Provides enough detail on the important points, but no unnecessary detail.
- Demonstrates a clear understanding of the paper’s key concepts, methods, and results
- The student uses their own words, does not take text verbatim from the paper

Formatting (10 points):

- Adheres to the specified length requirement (2-3 pages)
- Appropriate choice of formatting (e.g., font size, spacing, citation style)
- Free of grammatical errors, spelling mistakes, and typographical errors

Scoring:

- **Excellent (90-100 points):** exceptional understanding, clarity, and adherence to formatting.
- **Good (70-89 points):** effectively conveys the main points of the paper with good clarity and organization, although there may be minor areas for improvement.
- **Fair (50-69):** offers a basic understanding but lacks substantially in organization and clarity
- **Needs Improvement (below 50 points):** significant deficiencies in content understanding, clarity, organization, formatting, or originality.