Reviewer: Ian Greenbaum

Author: Kevin Luo

Date: 1/27/16

Unit 1 Essay Peer Review

Summary:

In my opinion, the main focus of this analysis paper was on the discourse community that makes up the openCV websit, openCV.com. The author starts by giving a short introduction of what OpenCV is, and what types of applications it can be used for. He then gives his initial observations of the web page, analyzing its use of advertisement, color, and physical location of certain links. He then moves on to what I believe the focus of the essay is on, which is an analysis of the websites various elements and links and how they are viewed by him, an insider (computer science major) and might be viewed by someone outside of the discourse community (myself for instance). He does this by examining the websites introduction, donation link, lack of graphics, news section, tutorials, download links, and navigation bar.

Major Points:

I think there's a lot of good ideas in this essay, but as for an overall focus, I definitely think there is a little work to done. I've already marked up the printed out version of the essay, and will attach that with the critique, but to reiterate some of my points...

 I would start by coming up with a hook for your essay. Something that makes a reader want to continue after the first line. Maybe something along the lines of making a generalization about the wide ranging types of programs, program languages, applications of each, and then maybe juxtapose it, in a humorous way, with the narrower stereotype of a computer programmer him/herself, i.e. introverted, lacking a need for visual aids, rational, and socially a little nuttier than your average individual (not to be insulting; my father's a computer programmer; data model architect to be exact).

Next, I would finish the intro with a focusing sentence that encapsulates what you're trying to say. Something like you're using OpenCV's website to analyze the overarching discourse community by examining a user's initial impression, spatial importance of links (vertical hierarchy you mentioned), lack of graphics, news section, tutorials, emphasis on documentation link and comparing each of these elements to the impression of an insider (like yourself) and an outsider (like the reader).

I would also cite specific wording from the website and how its chose of vocabulary speaks to an exclusive or inclusionary attitude.

I would start each body paragraph with a topic sentence that flows from the paragraph before it (without sounding robotic, like first, second, third, fourth, finally).

I would introduce the focus of the essay the top of each body paragraph and end it with a reiteration of what was said above, again, without sounding robotic

Include an ending that leaves the reader questioning something broader, or just relating the focus of the essay to a real world application (I wrote a somewhat corny joke on your actual paper itself).

Minor Points:

Now to be nitpicky…

You use a lot of commas in the wrong place, and in the areas you use them correctly, sometimes the sentence becomes too wordy.

In some places you have a weak repetition of words, like at the beginning of the third body paragraph you use the word "especially" twice, almost back to back (look for synonyms)

Try to have your paragraphs be equal length, so as to moderate the amount of analysis each body paragraph has, not giving one section too much, and another section too little.

Avoid adverbs you don't REALLY need, like when you say, "…the site seems to put importance [mainly] on two elements." Take out the word mainly, it takes away from the strength of your opinion, and maybe find a synonym for seems to again strengthen your source of authority.

 Your second to last body paragraph starts out like a conclusion, but then turns into another analysis section (I underlined what I'm talking about)

Lastly, you spelled the word lazy, "lay" LOL