Workshop 1 Homework

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The Workshop Experience

The workshop provided me with a solid understanding of how to critically engage with research papers. I learned how to quickly extract key ideas within five to ten minutes of reading, making it easier to grasp a paper's main message. One key takeaway was the importance of summarizing a paper in a concise manner, which reinforces understanding. Additionally, I realized that as a writer, structuring a paper to align with the three-pass approach enhances readability and comprehension. This will help reviewers and readers to easily understand what the paper is trying to communicate and it is a skill that I intend to develop further in my writing as I am currently working on a research project. I believe the workshop came at the best time for me as it is helping me to improve my reading and writing skills.

Applying the Three-Pass Approach

I frequently read research papers for my Mobile Big Data course, which is heavily research-based. Implementing the three-pass approach has significantly improved my efficiency. I have noticed that the time required for each pass varies depending on the complexity of the paper and my intended depth of understanding. The first pass serves as an effective way to familiarize myself with any paper, providing a foundation that makes the second pass more structured and insightful. I already have a minimal knowledge of the contents of the paper hence the second pass provides me a way to build on that foundational knowledge gained from the first pass. For instance, I once had to summarize a paper for the class, and completing the second pass on this paper took me about two hours to complete. However, as I applied this approach to other papers, I was able to reduce the second pass to about an hour while still gaining a thorough understanding. This approach will be invaluable in all my future research readings.

Experience with the Paper: *Predictability of Population Displacement After the 2010 Haiti Earthquake*

First Pass

I found the introduction overly lengthy, which made my first pass take around 15 minutes. Through this experience, I realized that skimming the first few paragraphs, rather than reading the entire introduction, can provide sufficient insight into the paper's focus. I now refer to this as a "controlled reading" approach. Despite the lengthy introduction, the structured three-pass

method helped me gain enough knowledge to answer basic questions about the paper. A method I used is that after the first pass, I asked myself about the 5C's and I was able to answer the questions. This method is working for me on other papers as I do not even do ahead to the second pass for some papers if I do not need to have an in-depth understanding of the paper.

Second Pass

During the second pass, I encountered similar time constraints. However, focusing on graphs and diagrams proved beneficial, as they clearly illustrated key findings. The time spent on each graph depended on the level of understanding of these visual representations. The paper included detailed visual representations of different analytical methodologies, which helped streamline my understanding. Although the three-pass approach suggests the second pass should take around an hour, I spent nearly two hours completing the pass on the paper. With continued practice, I aim to develop greater efficiency in applying this method.