Critique 3: Source Use, Analysis, and Organization

This worksheet addresses three of the common issues observed across all Critique 2 papers. Herein we will give some key points to improve performance regarding these categories: Source Use, Analysis, and Organization.

Source Use
Source use covers citations, how we introduce citations, and how we frame the information introduced. Keep the following in mind:

• Citations have two components: in-text citations, like (Section 2.3) or (p. 8), and a Works Cited or References at the end of the paper: See examples at https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/09/
• Introducing evidence in the form of paraphrasing makes synthesis and analysis easier than using a quote. Quotes are most useful when discussing the specific word choice of an author.
• Keep in mind framing phrases like: “As the authors explained”, “Multiple sections of the paper discuss”, and “This type of pattern can be seen in sections...” all help frame where and how you are using evidence from the paper.

Analysis
Remember that a critique is an analysis of the system discussed. While you may set the stage with a description of the system’s goals and how the authors describe design and implementation, you are also expected to engage critically with their description and statements.

• Use grounded examples and specific words to engage with how the system performs. Avoid overly effusive language that doesn’t commit to a critical analysis. Praise specifically and meaningfully, but also engage critically.
• Discuss limitations and trade-offs as they relate to specific choices and what those limitations and trade-offs mean once applied.
• Consider opening sections with an analytic claim that you then support with evidence rather than opening with a description.

Organization
The organization and structure of your paper should support your argument. To do so, you should first construct your argument and then organize your paper around the argument.

• Plan a logical flow for your argument. Know the main ideas, how they connect, and be prepared and able to explain both in the introduction.
• Use meaningful headings to create logical modules for your analysis. Make sure you explain how the modules connect with direct transitions at the beginning and end of sections.
• Use hierarchy to prioritize and embed content. Not all content need be at the same level; use sections, subsections, and even lists to embed layered structure.
• Make sure you explain structure via strong topic sentences to introduce concepts, transitions to connect ideas, and supporting sentences to elaborate.