

Category	Advanced	Competent	Developing
Approach (introduction) and conclusion: prepare reader for paper; approach and conclusion should connect in some way.	Uses summary to provide overview of system and its purpose; highlights core modules and their relationships; connects design goals to purpose of system; may state major design choices	Gives an overview of system; lists design goals; may not provide or explain relationships. Is incomplete or moves too quickly to concrete implementation details.	Approach/introduction names system and purpose; lacks overview of modules and design goals. Conclusion may be absent or may not recap system at all.
Structure: hierarchical structure, typically by modules or by design criteria.	Headers and subsections make structure visible. Structure echoes logic of argument/claims. Each section/subsection begins with brief high-level statement, connecting section to overall design. Design goals or constraints rhetorically motivate design and implementation choices.	Headers and subsections make structure visible. Some sections receive overviews but not consistently. Design goals or constraints may appear as conclusions to implementation descriptions, rather than motivations.	Section sequence on modules and design choices may lack obvious logic; relationships between sections are missing.
System design: Explains design goals and uses them, with system requirements, to motivate and support design choices.	Clearly identifies all design goals; details modules; explains how system works and under what conditions. Links high-level overviews to concrete implementation details. Articulates and justifies trade-offs with reference to use context, requirements, and design principles.	Identifies design goals, details modules; explains how system works and under what conditions. May not effectively link high-level abstractions to concrete implementation. Goals may not be linked to specific design choices. States key design choices without direct justification, or presents design decisions as default, rather than choices.	Describes system and modules; lists design goals. System design is presented as obvious; trade-offs and prioritization are not visible. Goals are not linked to specific design features.
Language / Style	Direct, concise language and appropriate diction. Figures are appropriately captioned.	Vague or general language; informal; some errors.	Significant errors; may ramble; vague language.