Guidelines for Writing a Paper Review

Throughout the semester, we will have paper discussions that dive into more advanced research related to course material. You will be required to submit a paper review of one of the papers per discussion (the paper that you should review is marked with “+ Review” on the schedule page). Please put together a short writeup in your favorite document editor, and submit it to Gradescope. The writeup should consist of the following sections:

1. **Brief Summary**
   - Limit this to 1-2 paragraphs.
   - What is the problem the paper is trying to solve?
   - What are the key ideas of the paper? Key insights?
   - What is the key contribution to literature at the time it was written?
   - What are the most important things you take out of it?

2. **Strengths**
   - 3-5 bullet points.
   - Does the paper solve the problem well?
   - List only the most important ones.

3. **Weaknesses**
   - 3-5 bullet points.
   - This is where you should think critically. Every paper/idea has a weakness. This does not mean that the paper is necessarily bad (though maybe some will be), but that there is room for improvement and future research can accomplish this.
   - List only the most important ones.

4. **Extensions and New Ideas**
   - 1-2 extensions or new ideas, one paragraph each.
   - Be creative. Is there some new insight that you might be able to explore? Can you do better than what they’ve proposed? Can you use their idea to solve a different problem? Use any inspiration from the paper to think about what you could do, and briefly explain what value this adds to the literature.
   - You can use your weaknesses for inspiration on what to fix, but you don’t have to.