

TOOL BOX ESSAY SELF EVALUATION

Essay Title, Individual Names, and Team Name (if any)

Instructions. Each essay should have a copy of this form paper clipped to the essay (which should be stapled). Each question needs a brief verbal evaluation, such as “We are pretty sure our mission was accomplished”, “We think we did OK, but we are not so sure”, or “We gave it a shot, but may not have invested enough time to do a good job.”

1. **Brevity.** Does the paper get to the point with minimal fluff or padding?
2. **Punchline.** Does the paper make points that are mathematically interesting? Is there any “news one use”?
3. **Clarity.** Is the paper crystal clear?
4. **Depth.** Is it clear that the authors have researched what their topic? Specifically, have original sources been found, read, and understood (at least to some level).
5. **Authenticity.** For example, do the authors make a big deal out of something that is “trivial” and then gloss over other things that are “non-trivial” (or wrong?!). Lack of evenness in the exposition is a strong suggestion that the authors have not made a personal investment in paper.
6. **Coherence.** Does the paper fit together, or do some “blocks” lack a sincere connection?
7. **Links.** Is it clear at each point what sources are being used? In particular, have the authors been clear and specific about the innovations of the paper and how these innovations specifically relate to the sources. This can’t be handled just by a few sources mentioned at the beginning of the essay. This information needs to be integrated into the essay.
8. **Workmanship.** Was notation well chosen? Were displayed equations well set? Was there a sensible abstract? Was high quality bibtex used? Were the references checked for style and completeness? Was spell check run?