CS 190 Term Paper Draft Peer Critique

You will be given a printout of a term paper from another student in class. Take it home and read it, writing comments on the paper when you have them. Specific things to write down on the paper include:

- Underline what you consider to be the topic and topic sentence of the paper and write "TOPIC" next to it.
- You should indicate any place you do not understand what the person is trying to say with a question mark or “huh?” notation.
- Note any place where you think there is insufficient documentation, sources, or citations. ("sources?")
- Note any place where you feel the author "wanders" in their writing or strays too far away from their topic. ("relevance?")
- Any time they jump unexpectedly to another topic or should improve the flow and transitions in their paper, make a note and suggest possible ways to make the transition smoother.

In addition to the specific items above, while reading you should think about the overall topic of the paper, the organization of the paper, the quality of their references, and how well they laid the groundwork (background) so that you could understand their topic area.

When reading, it may help you to keep these questions (the grading criteria for the final papers) in mind:

1. Is the thesis/topic clear?
2. Is sufficient background given to explain issues to the target audience?
3. Is each part of the paper thoughtful and well researched? Relevant and legitimate information. Reader gains insight into the topic via writer's in-depth analysis and presentation of material.
4. Is the paper well organized? Paper should demonstrate a logical sequencing of ideas and use transitions to guide the reader and enhance organization.
5. Are sources quoted and cited appropriately? Is bibliography complete and appropriate? References should be varied and should be appropriate for a college level course. The paper should include peer-reviewed sources rather than just using Google or Wikipedia.
6. Are the mechanics and style of writing appropriate? Paper should be free of spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors. Style of writing should be professional.

Your assignment

For this assignment, you will be turning in 3 things:

1. A summary critique for the author of the paper you were assigned. In addition to the standard name/email boilerplate that you place at the top of every assignment, this submission must include:
   a. The author's name and the topic of the paper you reviewed.
   b. Three specific things that should be improved about the paper and your suggestion(s) as to how to do so. (You may refer to the notations you made in the paper itself above, but you should also try and provide written advice as to how to improve the issue.)
   c. Suggestions on the author's general approach to the topic and organizational structure that
could be improved to make the final paper stronger.

2. A filled out CS190 Term Paper Draft Grading Key. This can be found on the Homework page of the class website. Clearly indicate which categories are Excellent, Satisfactory, or Unsatisfactory and assign what you think is an appropriate score for the draft. You do not need to fill out the "comments" section.

3. The marked-up term paper draft.

**Turn in your written summary critique (#1 above) and the Rough Draft Grading Key (#2 above) to Blackboard for the HW8 assignment. Bring a hardcopy of all three parts (written summary, grading key, and marked-up term paper) to class to return to the author of the paper.**