

## Homework 1: Critique of “A View of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Software Engineering”

**Due:** August 27th. Hard copy – handed in at the end of class

A couple of notes about critiques in general:

- Class discussion of the critique is mandatory! Not attending will result in reduced, or possibly no, critique credit.
- Critiques must not exceed one page, 12 point font, **single spaced**. Critiques of longer than one page will not be graded.
- The goal of critiques is for you to 1) encourage you to read and understand the paper, 2) encourage critical thinking about its contents (<http://wsuctproject.wsu.edu/ctr.htm> describes how critical thinking can be evaluated and gives some hints for things you might want to think about – look at the “Mastering” column), and 3) provide a basis for an interesting class discussion on the paper.

Things to *avoid* when writing critiques:

- Don’t summarize the paper.
- Don’t make vague comments like “this was a good paper” unless they are followed up by more specific ones describing *why* you thought it was a good paper.
- (and it should go without saying that critiques should be typed, and spell-checked, and free of grammatical errors – never turn in anything without proofreading it!)

Things I want to see in a critique:

- Your opinion. What do you agree with and disagree with and *why* (the why is important!). This can refer to the ideas in the paper, the writing, anything.
- Well supported arguments. The best critiques draw on information from outside sources like your own experience or what you’ve learned from other papers, texts, or classes.
- Evidence that you read the paper (all of it).

This paper provides a history of software engineering as well as some predictions about its future. It provides a rationale for how software engineering research and practice has changed over the years. It does not go into a detailed explanation of the different techniques and practices but you will learn about many of them this semester. If you find yourself lost and confused (or interested and intrigued) I encourage you to Google some of the many buzz-words in this paper

So by now you’re wondering, what exactly does she want me to do here? Well here it is:

For this critique, I’d like you to do the following. The paper contains a list of “Timeless Principles and Aging Practices.” Pick two of the timeless practices, from two different decades, and describe why they are (or, if you disagree with Dr. Boehm, why they are not) timeless. Also describe which tools/techniques described in the paper address them and if you feel that they are successful or unsuccessful at doing so (and why). Also, pick one of the aging practices and describe why you think (or don’t think) this practice is aging.