Easy Task - Paper Craft

Paper Craft assignment

Instructions

Pick **exactly one** paper from the list below. Read it in full, then fill out the Paper Craft Reading Template (included at the end of this document) for that paper — every section, in your own words.

Choose only from the papers listed below. Or you can choose any relevant published paper outside this list but if possible please try to pick a paper which aligns with these papers a bit, don't try to choose any out of the world type paper as then it would be difficult for us to evaluate.

Heads up: you will be asked about this paper in the interview — the claim, the surprise, the structural choices, all of it. This template is meant to capture your own read of the paper, so please don't use an LLM to fill it in blind. It's easy to tell when a template was generated rather than actually worked through, and we will notice.

Paper Options

General

1. An Image is Worth 16x16 Words: Transformers for Image Recognition at Scale

2. MiniLLM: On-Policy Distillation of Large Language Models

3. DeepSeek-V3 Technical Report

4. GQA: Training Generalized Multi-Query Transformer Models from Multi-Head Checkpoints

5. Direct Preference Optimization: Your Language Model is Secretly a Reward Model

RL Domain — Policy Gradient Algorithms

1. Trust Region Policy Optimization

2. DeepSeek-R1: Incentivizing Reasoning Capability in LLMs via Reinforcement Learning

Paper Craft Reading Template

Paper

Title:

Authors:

Venue / Year:

A. BEFORE READING PAST THE ABSTRACT

What's the claim?

What's the surprise?

What would I do to test this?

Killer alternative explanation

B. AFTER READING THE FULL PAPER

What did they do that I didn't predict?

Controls I missed

Experimental choices that surprised me

Framing moves I wouldn't have made

The structural moves

How does the introduction set up tension?

How do the studies build on each other?

The one heavy lifting sentence

How do they foreclose alternative explanations?

Depth level of the paper

Level Description	✓

Proposes X, it works (0)	
X works + strong evidence (1)	
Why X works + reveals problem structure (2)	
General principle that reframes broader thinking (3)	

C. WHAT I LEARNED ABOUT CRAFT

The framing lesson

Fruitfulness

One thing I'll steal
