Observations and General Comments Regarding Assignment 2

Not all of these remarks apply to everyone, but many apply to many people.

1. A continued lack of precision. In general, the “proofs” are not proofs. I will remind everyone that a proof must be a sequence of statements, each of which is either given as true, or that follow from preceding statements by logical implication and nothing else. Some of the so-called proofs were statements like “language L has property p1 and property p2, and so does L2, so they must be the same.” or “(it is self-evident that) both expressions define A* so they have to be the same.”

2. Forgetting that set equality proofs require two parts. ALWAYS. There were still many homeworks where people wrote something like, “pick a w in L. .... since w is also in R it follows that L = R.”

3. Misusing language. You cannot say things like, “let S* be the null string” because sets are not words. You cannot say that b* is in L because b* is a regular expression and L is a language.