We normally publish the post-mortem for an assignment after it has been marked and released. Here is a list of common errors provided by the graders for assignment 5.

General

- Many students did not use pure structural recursion. No marks were deducted, but pure structural recursion is encouraged for questions in this assignment. For bonus question, however, only pure structural recursion is allowed.

- Many students are still missing examples for base case(s) throughout the assignment. When writing a recursive function, there should be an example for every base case, and an example for at least one of the recursive cases, as discussed in the style guide.

- Many students are still missing parameter references in their purpose statements. Purpose statements should meaningfully use each parameter name, and the parameter names should be written exactly as they appear in the function header.

- Constants (and helper functions) should be defined above the design recipe for the function they are used in. Some students are still defining their constants and helper functions between their examples and function definition, or after the main functions specified in the assignment.

- All design recipe components, except for tests, are required for helper functions. Some students did not include these design recipe components for their helper functions.

- The most specific comparison operator should be used. Some students used equal? when string=? or symbol=? is more specific.

- Helper functions should not interrupt design recipe for the main function. Please reference the style guide.

Question 2

- In part(b), coded-3-char could be done without recursion. Many students used recursion, but failed to do it pure structurally. Although no marks were deducted, pure structural recursion is encouraged.

Question 3

- Some students had trouble with contracts. Many students chose not to use the provided data type in their contract, e.g. using (listof Int) instead of (listof Rating). We prefer (listof Rating), but (listof Int) is acceptable as long as the requirement "all values of ratings-list must be 1 or -1" is included.
Question 4

- Some students had trouble with contracts. Many students chose not to use DL or IL and instead used the longer definition. Please make use of the data definitions given and simplify your contract when possible.

- In part(c), many students missed the test case where IL is empty.