

Peer Review Worksheet

Writer:

Editor:

The purpose of the peer review is to offer your classmate critical suggestions for improving their draft essay. Please engage with their essay in a constructive manner using the questions below as a framework. While stylistic weaknesses (e.g., grammar, syntax, punctuation, etc.) are not the primary emphasis of your editorial work, you should offer comments where appropriate. Please make marginal comments on the paper as needed. You will have the opportunity to work with your partner in class to refine your drafts.

What is your overall impression of the essay? What are its main strengths?

1. Thesis:

What is the paper's topic?

Paraphrase the thesis. Is it focused? If not, how would you alter its scope?

2. Structure:

Does each body paragraph have a topic sentence which makes a claim that the paragraph then proves?

Read the thesis, followed by each topic sentence. Do they form a coherent argument? Should they be reorganized? How?

Can you easily determine how the topic sentences relate to each other (e.g. through clear transitions) and to the thesis? Does each paragraph build on the previous paragraph?

Is the textual evidence (details) in each paragraph sufficient, necessary, and well-explained?

Is there a really good sentence buried somewhere which should be promoted to a topic sentence, or even to a thesis statement?

Does the conclusion add something to the paper?

3. Style:

What could be cut from this paper? Look for digressions, summary of the text, and wordiness.

What points in the essay are clearly written? Indicate any confusing points and suggest clarifications.

Did the writer proofread? Can you find grammar, spelling, punctuation, style, or citation format mistakes? If so, mark them on the paper itself.

4. Final Comments:

List the two most important things the writer can do to improve this paper:

1.

2.

