

Peer Review Instructions

In Class

For writers:

Read the questions on the peer review worksheet.

Number the paragraphs on your paper.

Indicate at the top of your paper whether or not you want the reviewer to write on it.

If there's something in particular that you want the reviewer to help you with that's not included in my questions, write that at the top of the paper. The reviewer can respond to it under the question about other comments.

For reviewers:

Concentrate on providing constructive, specific, and supportive feedback.

During Revision

Review both your paper and your reviewer's comments before you meet with the writing tutor, but do not begin revising your paper. After you've met with the tutor, combine her comments with your reviewer's comments, and use these as your basis for revision.

- This is a good opportunity to see how much of your intended meaning is apparent to readers. If a reader has misinterpreted something you wrote, how might you make your point clearer?
- If your readers could not identify a plausible counterargument, you might need to rethink your argument. On the other hand, if they've identified a strong counterargument, consider responding to it within your paper.
- Review the readers' summary statements for each paragraph. Do they support the argument put forth in the introduction? Does the order of the paragraphs make sense? Do certain paragraphs attempt to do too much or not enough?

Remember—all writing decisions are ultimately up to you.

Finally...

Save your rough draft and the completed peer review sheet to turn in with the final version of your essay.

Peer Review Questions

Paper written by:

Paper reviewed by:

Read only the introductory paragraph. In your own words, what is the argument?

Now read the entire essay. After you finish, make a list of the topic or main point of each numbered paragraph.

Does the argument in the introductory paragraph match the argument advanced in the body paragraphs? Do you understand the argument any differently after having read the entire essay? If so, write in your own words the argument as you now understand it.

Consider the various ways this writer supports the argument. Choose one case that isn't as strong as it could be. What is it? How could it be strengthened?

Is there a specific point from the text(s) that would help support the writer's argument but is not yet mentioned in this paper?

What's the best counterargument you could make in opposition to this argument?

Do you have any other comments? For example, what is most interesting about this paper? What area would you prioritize for revision? If the writer asked you for help with something specific, address that issue here.