

Peer Review Feedback Form

(Read the essay completely before answering these questions)

Topic/Focus

1. What is the topic of this essay?
2. What issue is being addressed? If you are unsure, say so.
3. What is the primary purpose of this essay (i.e. to inform, persuade, or entertain)?
4. How can you tell what the primary purpose is?
5. Does the author take a position on the topic or issue?

6. What is the thesis of the essay? Underline it in the essay and mark it “thesis.” If you are not sure, DO NOT GUESS! Instead, note that you are unsure of the thesis.

7. Is the first sentence interesting? Be honest. Does it make you want to read more? How can it be improved or what could it do to engage you more?

8. Does the first sentence give you a sense of what is to come? Essays should not begin with overly broad or unsubstantiated generalizations. If you understand what will follow, what has made this first sentence effective? If you do not know what will follow, what has gone wrong in the sentence such that you, the reader, did not fully understand?

Organization

9. What is the main point of each paragraph (whether there are 5, 3, or 56 paragraphs...)? On the last page, please outline the essay’s paragraph topics.

10. Do the main points of the paragraphs lead into each other clearly? Even if the order makes sense logically, has the author ensured that the transitions from one point to the next are clear?

11. Is each paragraph adequately developed? Are there sufficient details or are there too many? Are important details overlooked or minimized?

12. Does each sentence in a paragraph clearly relate to the sentences around it? Is the transition from paragraph to paragraph clear? Comment generally on the flow.

13. Does every sentence contribute to fulfilling the thesis of the paper? If not, could non-contributing sentences be cut without harming the paper?

Conclusion

14. Is the conclusion clear? Does it effectively sum up the paper without introducing new ideas? Does it leave you with a sense of the importance or usefulness of the paper?

15. Is the last sentence satisfying? Did it leave you with a sense of closure? How could it be improved? What could it do better?

Overall

16. Is the writing wordy? Could you cut a significant number of words without losing meaning? Is the text easily readable or does it require attention?

17. Does the essay have a title? Is it informative and interesting? Would it make you want to read the essay?

Paragraph Outline