

Peer Review

Process:

1. First, distribute a copy of your essay to everyone in the group.
2. Read your essay aloud while the group follows along silently.
3. Once you have read your essay aloud, everyone in the group, including the author, should answer the questions below ON THEIR OWN and SILENTLY.
4. Once everyone has done this, then everyone should share their suggestions with the author. Discuss it together.
5. Return the drafts to the author so that she or he can use your suggestions to write a better draft of the paper.
6. Move on to the next essay.

Justification:

1. The author should read her or his work aloud to hear what it sounds like.
2. It is much easier to follow someone else's paper with a copy to look at.
3. Everyone should answer the questions on their own so that they are not unduly influenced by others in the group.
4. The goal is to help the author write a much improved revision.

Questions: Once you have heard the draft read aloud, please answer the following questions on the draft.

1. Please underline the thesis. If you cannot find it, write "I could not find the thesis."
2. Does the thesis respond to the entire topic? If not, write a note to the author next to the thesis or introduction.
3. Check to see that each paragraph has a clear purpose and function. Note any problems on the draft.
4. Check for "drop in" quotations. If you see them, note it on the draft.
5. Check to see that the context and purpose of each use of text is clear. Is the meaning clear? If not, note it on the draft.
6. Check for any places that need further development in terms of case, detail or argument. Note this on the draft. Does the essay examine details from our text? It should.
7. Check for clear transitions between sentences, paragraphs and ideas. Note any problems on the draft.
8. Check for a clear "so what." Does the essay have a point to make that goes beyond answering the question?
9. Put a question mark next to any sentences that you do not understand. You will have to explain why you do not understand them to the author.
10. If you see error, you may underline it or circle it. Do not do this unless you are sure it is error. Do not correct it.