

General Instructions

The goal of **peer review** is to provide feedback to the writer to assist in improving his/her writing by identifying strengths and areas of improvement that may not be apparent to the writer.

The following steps should help you with the peer review process.

- A. Read the entire draft twice.
 - Your first reading should provide you with an overall opinion about the quality of the essay.
 - During your second reading, you will provide constructive feedback, that is, praise and suggestions for improvement, to help the writer revise.
 - Get help with review and revision by using the “Prepared Comments” that follow. You can select feedback that has already been prepared for you and/or you can create your own feedback for your writer to read.
- B. Reread your comments/feedback to make certain they are clear and specific.

Listed below are the different parts of the persuasive essay that you need to review and provide feedback for your writer. By following the directions carefully, you will make it easy for your writer to know where he/she has done well and where he/she has to revise for improvement.

1. Thesis/Opinion Statement

Locate and underline the writer’s thesis/opinion statement. If there is no thesis, ask the writer to provide one. Provide comments/suggestions to the writer to improve his/her thesis/opinion statement, as needed (see comments)

2. Arguments/Reasons

Locate and highlight the writer’s arguments/reasons to support his/her thesis statement. Is each argument convincing? Does each argument relate to the thesis statement? Provide comments/suggestions to the writer to improve his/her arguments, as needed. (see comments)

3. Supporting Details/Evidence

Locate the supporting details, facts/examples to support the arguments in each paragraph.

- Highlight the strong supporting details of each paragraph. Let the writer know whether he/she has enough strong supporting details to make a convincing argument. (see comments)
- Highlight weak points in the argument. Provide comments and suggestions for strengthening them. (see comments)

- If you think of an opposing argument that the writer has not considered, point that out for revision. (see comments)

4. Introduction

Locate and reread the introduction. The introduction should capture the reader's attention and provide background information on the issue.

- Provide comments on how well the writer used a "hook" or attention getter at the beginning of the introduction. (see comments)
- If the beginning of the introduction is not interesting or just repeats the prompt, suggest ways to improve it. (see comments)

5. Organization of Body Paragraphs

Reread the body paragraphs to determine whether the writer builds the arguments so that his/her strongest argument is last.

- Highlight the strongest argument. If it is not last, suggest a way for the writer to reorder the paragraphs more effectively. (see comments)

6. Transitions

Highlight the transitions in each paragraph. Make comments or suggestions to the writer to improve his or her transitions, as needed.

7. Conclusion

- Highlight the part of the conclusion where the writer emphasizes the importance of the issue that he/she stated in the thesis. If it is missing, suggest how the writer can achieve that. (see comments)
- Highlight the place where the writer expresses a call for action, stating what he/she wants the reader to do about the issue. Provide comments and/or suggestions for improvement, as needed. (see comments)

Persuasive Writing--- Prepared Comments To Help Writers Revise

1. Thesis/Opinion Statement

- You have not stated your opinion//thesis statement. You need to add a statement that...
- This is your opinion/thesis statement:_____. But it is not positioned at the end of your introduction at. You should move this sentence into your introductory paragraph.
- Your thesis statement is vague. Tell me more specifically what your position is.
- You have written a strong thesis/opinion statement that clearly states your position. I really like....

2. Arguments/Reasons

- Your argument is too vague. I suggest that you...
- Your argument is not related to your thesis. Eliminate this idea or revise it so that it talks about...
- Your argument is clear, strong and supports your thesis.
- Two of your arguments are about the same idea. Revise one so that you are presenting a new idea.

3. Supporting Details/Evidence

- This example is convincing.
- I like the research you used to explain...
- I like the information you use to...
- You have put your details in a very convincing order.
- You only have a few details to support your argument. You can improve this by adding additional supporting ideas-facts, reasons, statistics, or an opinion. For example...
- This detail does not relate to your main idea. Either eliminate it or relocate it to another paragraph with the same idea.
- This fact doesn't support your reason/main idea. You need to ...
- It is unclear how your evidence supports your argument/reason.
- These details do not make sense to me. Reread and revise them to make them clearer.
- I am not completely convinced. Your position needs to be supported with better evidence.
- Rearrange your details to produce a stronger argument by...
- You did not consider the counterpoint for this argument. I suggest that you talk about... (suggestion) to make your argument more convincing

4. Introduction

- Your introduction is clear, contains general information about the issue and the thesis statement.
- You restated the prompt at the beginning of the introduction instead opening your essay with something vivid and exciting to read. I suggest you start with
- You can improve your introduction by including an interesting quote, statistic, anecdote, or startling fact as your attention getter.
- You did not provide any background information so your readers will begin to better understand the issue before you state your position. I suggest that you talk about...
- You are missing an introduction. I suggest that you...
- Your introduction is engaging and makes me want to continue reading.

5. Organization of Body Paragraphs

- Your first reason is your strongest reason. Reposition or move this paragraph to the end of body of your essay.
- Your last reason is not convincing. Make this your first body paragraph instead of your last body paragraph.
- Rearrange the order of your paragraphs so that you are building to your most convincing argument. I suggest that you put...(suggest a more effective order for the paragraphs)

6. Transitions

- Instead of using “first”, “second,” and “third,” you may want to use...
- is a weak transition. Try replacing it with ..
- There are no transitions. Look at the beginning of each paragraph. Select a transitional word or phrase that will help the reader move from one idea to the next.

7. Conclusion

- You did not suggest one or more ways to address the issue. What actions do you think the reader should consider? My suggestion would be to...
- Your conclusion is incomplete or missing. You should add a conclusion that emphasizes the importance of the issue and calls for something to be done.
- Your conclusion does a great job of bringing closure to your paper.

8. Language Use

- Your tone and voice are appropriate for your audience
- Your tone and voice are not appropriate for your audience. I suggest that you...
- Many of your sentences begin the same way. Use MY Editor to help you change the beginnings. To start, my suggestion would be to
- This word (or words) are repeated too often. I suggest that you substitute....
- Use MY Editor to locate places in your essay where you need to vary your sentence structure.

9. Mechanics and Conventions

- Use MY Editor to correct subject-verb agreement errors.
- Use MY Editor to correct your punctuation errors.
- Use Spellchecker to identify and correct misspelled words.