

HANDOUT 2: PEER REVIEW WORKSHEET¹

Switch papers with your partner. You will take turns reading each other's papers out loud; this is the procedure that is followed in the writing center. Your roles as reader/consultant and listener/consultee are equally important. Therefore, here are some guidelines to follow and questions to keep in mind.

***When you are the reader/consultant:**

- Read the paper *out loud* as it appears. Do not automatically add in missing words or word endings. This will help you and the listener spot these typos.
- Look especially at the organization of the paper. Ensure that the writer provided enough details in the body paragraphs to make the points he or she is making completely clear, providing evidence if necessary.
- Encourage your consultee to write in corrections or make notes as you discuss, rather than saving all your comments or corrections for the end.

Besides making surface-level corrections, here are some main questions to keep in mind as you are reading and evaluating:

1. Does the essay have a catchy and intriguing title?
2. Is the introduction interesting? Does the writer draw you in immediately?
3. Does the thesis establish a specific focus for the essay?
4. Is there *one* idea explored in each paragraph? Are there transitions between these paragraphs?
5. Does the essay transition into a conclusion, ending the paper with something poignant and thought-provoking?
6. Does the essay respond fully and adequately to the assignment, and follow proper formatting guidelines?

The more conversation you have, the more helpful your consultation will be!

***When you are the listener/consultee:**

- Listen to what you have written as it is being read. The purpose of having someone read your paper out loud is for you to *hear* it.
- If your consultant asks for clarification, take note; that should signal that you might need to add more information or adjust your wording for the reader's sake.
- Keep a pen or pencil in your hand. If you hear something you want to change, stop the reader and make note of it. You might forget what to revise if you don't write it down!

Here are some questions to think about:

1. Upon hearing the introduction, would you want to read your essay?
2. Does the consultant stumble over wordy phrases or long sentences? If the consultant has trouble reading something *out loud*, it will probably be difficult to read and understand on paper as well.
3. At the conclusion and final sentence of the paper, are you confident that you have left your audience with a clear understanding of your specific argument?
4. Does your essay follow a clear progression, drawing readers in with the introduction and leaving them with a clear understanding of what you are arguing?

Even though you already know what you wrote, be a critical and attentive listener who knows nothing about this topic. This will help you when you revise!

¹ Corbett, Steven, Teagan E. Decker, and Michelle LaFrance. *Peer Pressure, Peer Power: Theory and Practice in Peer Review and Response for the Writing Classroom*. Southlake, Texas: Fountain Head Press, 2014. Print.

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- b. What is the writer hoping the reader will remember from the paper? Are these ideas the most important ones, or are there essential points missing?

Finally:

- a. Does the essay clearly and completely respond to the prompt? I suggest referring directly back to the assignment sheet in order to check this question.

Mechanics:

- a. Check for typos and misspellings

- b. Make sure all quotes are cited in-text, and that citations are formatted properly.

Other comments (I suggest making a short list of your comments to remind the writer of what to work on here).

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