

Steps for Peer Response

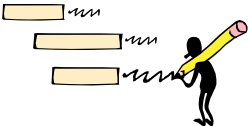
1. **Read aloud.** Students having their papers workshopped will read their papers aloud while their group members listen attentively and follow along on their copies.
2. **Freewrite.** After the first reading, group members will freewrite their general impressions on the essay in Section I, focusing on overall cohesiveness, clarity, and areas of confusion.
3. **Do a second reading.** Read the paper aloud a second time. This time, group members will jot down notes during the reading in Section II.
4. **Fill out peer response sheets.** After the second reading, group members will fill out the remaining questions in Section III, numbers 1-3. Please note: these evaluations are part of your participation grade, so please give thorough and thoughtful responses to your classmates. Simply saying that the paper was “good” is not very specific or helpful.
5. **Have a group discussion.** Discuss the paper by sharing constructive feedback. Remember: be tactful but honest and also specific and critical. Be sure to mention both the positive aspects of the essays as well as the areas that need to be improved. Do not focus merely on grammar and spelling; look at the larger aspects of thesis clarity, paragraph development, transitions, and overall cohesiveness.
6. **Collect sheets.** After your paper is workshopped, collect the evaluations from your group members, so you can use their comments to help you revise, and staple these evaluations to the back of the final draft of your paper when you turn it in. Remember, your classmates are going to be graded on their individual peer evaluations; therefore, losing their evaluation sheets affects their grades.

Peer Response Worksheet

Writer: _____

Peer Reviewer: _____

I. **FREEWRITE:** After the essay is read for the first time, freewrite your general impressions for one minute. What were the essay's strong points? What were its confusing points?



II. **NOTES:** During the second reading, jot down your advice below. Be as specific as possible! Refer to specific paragraph numbers or pages, for instance.

STRENGTHS	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

III. RESPONSE: Write your responses to the following questions, either on this sheet or on the essay itself, and then discuss them with the author.

1. What are your overall impressions of the introduction? Was it clear? Attention-grabbing? Well-organized? How could it be improved?
2. Explain the thesis in your own words:
3. Which ideas need to be developed with more specific examples and explanations?
4. Does the writer use strong topic sentences? Which topic sentences need to be revised and strengthened such that the content of the paragraph is clearer?
5. Does the writer provide sufficient evidence and explanation in each of the body paragraphs? Which points need to be developed more? Where could the writer include more evidence? How could the writer connect these ideas to the topic sentence as well as the thesis statement?
6. How can the overall flow of the paper be more fluid and coherent?
7. Does the essay end on a strong note? Does the conclusion tie up the points well and leave the reader with something to think about?