

PEER REVIEW HANDOUT

1. Name three things that you think the writer accomplished. Name three things that you think could be improved. Do you think the writer wrote an essay that has significance and deserves to be read by a wider audience? Explain.
2. Evaluate the writer's opening paragraph. Now that you've read the paper, do you think the writer addressed what he or she indicated would be addressed in the first paragraph? What is effective about the opening? What needs work? Offer advice about how to improve the opening—words, sentences, shifting the focus, and so on.
3. How well does the author establish a transition between the opening paragraph and the next one? Does the second paragraph seem to follow the first in a way that makes sense? Is there an abrupt shift in tone, content, style?

4. Examine the arrangement of the essay as a whole. Does the essay begin where it should begin? Does the essay build ideas and lead the reader on an interesting journey? Are parts of the essay repetitive? Is there a point made in a paragraph that should be stated sooner or later?

5. Identify two places where the writer uses examples to illustrate a point. Do you think the examples work? Are they compelling? Should others be used? Has the writer offered full descriptions or are there gaps? Are the descriptions too wordy? Has the author explained why the example is important?

6. Evaluate the arrangement of specific paragraphs.
 - Do the sentences follow one another in a way that enables the reader to understand the point that is being made in each paragraph?
 - Are too many ideas jammed together in one paragraph? Should they be broken down and expanded on in separate paragraphs?
 - Are ideas repeated within one paragraph so that some should be eliminated?

7. Evaluate the author's conclusion. Is it strong, bold, interesting? Does the author seem to run out of steam?