

SYNTHESIS ESSAY PEER REVIEW WORKSHEET

For our peer editing session, you will be responsible for reviewing another student's essay.

Writer's Name: _____

Editor's Name: _____

Title of the Essay: _____

The Introduction

1. Go through the introduction and underline the hook statement (if used) and double underline the thesis statement.
2. Review the thesis -- Does it clearly state a claim/argument? If no, please give the writer some suggestions for making their thesis statement more effective -- be specific. An argument is more than a basic observation, but rather something that needs to be proved.

Example: Observation: America is violent.

Thesis/ Argument: Americans are violent because they are fearful.

3. Consider the introduction as a whole. Does it effectively and interestingly set up the author's argument? Please offer a comment on how it could be improved.

The Body Paragraphs

- a. Please go through the body paragraphs and underline each topic sentence.
 - b. Underline the ***Point***, the ***Evidence***, and the ***Explanation***.
 - c. Circle transitional words and phrases (*i.e.*, the words/phrases that transition from one idea/paragraph to another).
 - d. Determine and write down if the essay is set up in the Point-by-Point or the Block style. Specifically explain how you know it is one and not the other.
4. After reviewing the topic sentences, do they all support the paper's main thesis? Indicate which ones do not (or are missing). Perhaps some are too broad or others may be unclear. Help the author by being point to specific locations in the essay which are missing/broad/ unclear in your comments.
 5. Is evidence missing in the body paragraphs? Is the evidence inappropriate (meaning that it does not help prove the point)? Can you think of more or better evidence that could be added to the essay? If you answered yes to any of the questions, please provide full details.
 6. Are the quotations used seamlessly integrated into the author's writing? If not, point out a way that they can fix two of the quotations.
 7. Check for the correct citation method. Make note of locations where evidence is cited incorrectly. Remember that citation format is as follows: Jenny is optimistic when she refused to have her spirits crushed by her family (§ 22).
 8. Unclear Writing: Are there any areas where the support is unclear or needs to be developed further?

The Conclusion

9. Underline the restatement of the main thesis.
10. Double underline the “So what?” statement, the call to action, or the rhetorical question.
11. In your opinion, does the conclusion effectively restate the thesis statement? Explain how it does or does not. Further, explain how could the author improve upon it.

Overall Impression

12. Overall, how effective was the essay's structure? Did ideas/paragraphs flow from one to the other? Explain. How could the structure of the essay be improved (e.g., the order of the body paragraphs, adding or deleting body paragraphs)? Explain how it could be improved.