

Research Essay Peer Review Worksheet

Writer: _____ Peer Reviewer: _____

Directions: Read through the essay, stopping at the end of each paragraph to consider the following checklist. Please check off and write all of your comments on the writer's draft, whether a paper copy or an online copy (i.e., Google Docs). They will use your comments to help improve their draft.

Introduction

- ☐ Hook: Does the writer engage the reader in the first couple of sentences?
- ☐ Does the writer provide relevant background information related to the topic?
- ☐ Does the writer define key terms that the reader needs to know to understand the remainder of the essay?
- ☐ Does the writer present a research question relevant to the unit texts?
- ☐ Thesis Statement: Does the thesis statement serve as a clear roadmap for the remainder of the paper by briefly summarizing the different ideas and perspectives the reader will encounter in the essay? Is the thesis statement objective? Remember, this is **not** an argumentative essay.

Body Paragraphs

- ☐ Topic Sentence: Does each body paragraph begin with a topic sentence that lets the reader know what this paragraph will be about? Does the content of each paragraph align with the topic sentences?
- ☐ Evidence: In all or most of the paragraphs, has the writer used evidence from at least two credible sources? Is the evidence relevant to the research question and aligned with the topic sentences? Does the evidence present interesting ideas and different perspectives relevant to the research question?
- ☐ Organization: Are the sources in each paragraph logically grouped together by a common subtopic? Is the sequencing of the paragraphs effective? If you think the sources could be grouped more effectively and/or that the paragraphs could be arranged in a different order, let the writer know.

Conclusion

- ☐ Does the conclusion summarize the main points and perspectives of the paper?
- ☐ Does it explain the importance and implications of the research topic?

Writing Style

- ☐ Has the writer effectively used transitions to show relationships across paragraphs as well as between sources?
- ☐ Has the writer only used quotes to highlight particularly eloquent, powerful, or surprising phrases or passages in a text? Remember that facts that do not require an author's exact wording should be paraphrased.
- ☐ Is the tone of the essay objective?
- ☐ Is the language used throughout the essay clear and precise?

Citations

- ☐ Does the paper include four or more sources relevant to the research question?
- ☐ Are the sources properly cited in-text and in the Works Cited page?

At the end of the draft:

Identify one strength of this essay.

Identify one area that the writer could improve upon.