

Peer Editing

1. **Sentences.** Do sentences read smoothly and clearly? Do parts seem awkward, unclear, or confusing? *Mark parts you think might benefit from revision.*

2. **Word choice, spelling, and punctuation.** Could some words be even more accurate, precise, specific, or descriptive? Are words misspelled? Are there problems with apostrophes or punctuation? *Mark parts you think might benefit from revision.*

3. **Formatting.** Is the paper set up according to MLA format? Are margins 1 inch? Is the essay in 12-point font and in Times New Roman? Is it double-spaced? Is the name at the top left, etc?

4. **Introduction (Hook).** Does the opening paragraph have a hook that catches the reader's interest? Is there a good overview of the topic that leads into the thesis in a smooth way? (*"The introduction is good because..." / "...could be stronger if..."*).

5. **Transitions.** Are transitions smooth? Look especially between paragraphs. Are quotations inserted into the paper in a smooth and accurate way? Are they relevant (fitting) or do they seem just crammed in to have a quote? (*"Transitions are good because..." / "...could be better if..."*).

* 6. **Quotations.** Are quotations handled effectively and accurately? Are they cited? Could the writer provide more clarity, context, paraphrase, or commentary with the quotations?

7. **Conclusions.** Does it sum up the essay without sounding too repetitive? Does it give the reader something more to consider and/or make the significance of the essay really hit home, highlighting why we should care about the topic, answering the "So what?" question. (*"The conclusion is good because..." / "...could be stronger if..."*)

IF YOU HAVE EXTRA TIME: Offer tips about other sections in the novel (and our other sources) the student might use as support in paragraphs.

DIRECTIONS: While or after reading a paper, flip it over and write the following and fill in the blanks (based on the criteria above):

1. Some parts could be stronger if... A, B, C
2. Some parts of this paper are good because... A, B, C

Below are six main things to think about when reviewing a paper.

1. **The Introduction.** Is the topic introduced effectively and in an engaging way?
2. **The Thesis.** Is the thesis clear and easy to find, and does it present a clear and specific thesis (that makes key claims) about what the novel suggests or teaches us about challenges facing many Native Americans such as Arnold?
3. **Body Paragraphs (Topic Sentences).** Does each body paragraph contain a clear topic sentence that makes a claim?
4. **Body Paragraphs (Unity).** Is all the support in each paragraph clearly connected to the one main claim of the topic sentence?
5. **Body Paragraphs (Support and Development).** Do the body paragraphs contain enough support? Is the support specific and detailed? Which parts seem rushed? Which parts seem to suggest careful thought? What else might the reader consider? TIP = Suggest other parts of the book the writer might include. Also, check to see that the writer also shows attention to other sources such as Broken Promises, “Soul Wound,” and the interview with Sherman Alexie.
6. **Quotations.** Are quotations handled effectively and accurately? Are they cited? Could the writer provide more clarity, context, paraphrase, or commentary with the quotations? If so, identify specific places where improvement could occur.

Are the quotations too long? Do the quotes look like “fluff” or “padding”? Brief but frequent quotes tend to work better than long infrequent quotes. Brief but frequent quotes suggest more effort, more thought, more support, and less “fluff.”