

ENGLISH 100 PEER REVIEW GUIDELINES



Peer reviewers do their best in a brief amount of time to offer opinions and suggestions. Writers are expected to take those tips into consideration but, ultimately, make their own decisions about their essays.

1. First, write your name on the draft as follows: “Peer Reviewed by (your name) .”
2. Then, on the back of the draft, offer three strengths and three ways to improve (see model below):

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Some parts of this paper could be stronger if... | Some parts are good because... |
| a) | a) |
| b) | b) |
| c) | c) |

- Think about the goals of the assignment (listed below), and prioritize when offering comments.
- There isn't time to address everything; there's just time for what seems most worthwhile to you.

| | |
|----------------|---|
| FOCUS | <p><u>Does the essay provide clear focus?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the introduction include a thesis that makes it clear up front that the writer is taking an overall stance on a specific topic? • Do easy-to-find topic sentences effectively signal the main point of each paragraph? Are all paragraphs focused and unified? |
| FLOW | <p><u>Is organization clear, smooth, and effective?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are quotes smoothly handled, not “dropped”? Are there smooth transitions within & between all paragraphs? Are tight connections maintained by avoiding repetition & keeping related ideas together? |
| CONTENT | <p><u>Is the essay supported with well-developed paragraphs?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does it include sufficient ideas and well-selected examples? Does it explain and illustrate ideas with accurate paraphrase and specificity? • Does it use and cite a minimum of <u>eight</u> sources and also include a minimum of <u>ten</u> in-text citations? • Are sources credible, relevant, authoritative, and accurate? • Does it provide background and history of the issue? • Does it address counterarguments and/or potential challenges? • Does it suggest specific actions to be taken? • Does it include examples of current models of action? <p><u>Does it have an engaging title, introduction, and conclusion?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the title catchy, and does it signal a specific topic? • Does the introduction have an effective hook? • Does the conclusion leave readers feeling like the topic matters to them? |
| CLARITY | <p><u>Does the essay look clear and accurate in its presentation?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it fair to others' work, citing it where needed, avoiding plagiarism? • Does it follow MLA format? Are the in-text citations and the works cited page accurate? Is the essay in 12-pt. font with 1" margins? Is the essay double spaced (and without extra-wide space)? <p>➤ <u>Is it carefully proofread for spelling, punctuation, grammar, and effective word choice?</u></p> |