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## OFTEN ASKED QUESTIONS

### ***What kinds of comments should I make?***

Flip this sheet over for suggestions about what to consider when responding to a draft.

### ***Where on the draft do I put my comments?***

Flip over the draft and list three strengths and three improvement ideas on the back. In addition, you can mark anywhere else within the draft itself.

### ***Can I talk during this activity?***

Great idea, but this is mainly a quiet reading, reflecting, and writing activity. Feel free to whisper a little, but save talking for the last few minutes so other students aren't distracted.

### ***Should I correct grammar?***

Please point out problems, but do not fix them. Don't try to fix everything. Perhaps circle some items, put arrows by them, or write "?" by them. Let writers learn by letting them fix their own work.

### ***Why am I giving advice if I'm not the teacher?***

This activity isn't only about writing and giving advice; it's largely about what's learned in the process of reading others' essays.

### ***If this activity is hard for me, how can I help my classmate with good comments?***

Try your best. Offer whatever helpful tips you can. I'm not looking for expertise; I'm looking for your best effort. Show it on the page in any way you can.

### ***If I finish early, can I leave early?***

Sounds nice, but leaving early distracts the class and encourages many people to rush way too fast. If you finish early, work on your draft or read upcoming class material.

### ***What if I don't finish in time?***

That happens sometimes. Just do your best. This isn't a quiz; it's a chance to share some helpful tips in a rather brief period of time.



**Good Peer Review Is Thoughtful**

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### ***What will I leave with today, and what do I turn in with my essay?***

You're leaving with your own drafts with peer comments on them. You're now responsible for turning in your peers' comments with your final draft. Turn in your final essay in a flat, loose-leaf folder, and include your peer-reviewed drafts with it.

### ***How does peer review fit into our Grading Contract?***

We'll be commenting on drafts four times this semester, and each time you're at a peer review session with a complete draft ready to go, you get one out-of-class task credit for preparing your work.

You also get one in-class task credit for each peer review session if you provide two classmates with helpful peer review comments.

The best peer comments are helpful, specific, and critical (but not unkind).

Strong peer review work is easy to spot. It doesn't look rushed or disinterested; it shows effort and interest.

**NOTE:** Make sure classmates write out this phrase and fill in the blank on your drafts: "Peer Reviewed by \_\_\_\_\_"