

ENGLISH 50 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.

Does the essay show clear focus?

- Is there a clear and specific thesis in the introduction?
- Do easy-to-find topic sentences effectively signal the main point of each paragraph? Are all paragraphs focused and unified? Does the essay avoid unnecessary repetition?

Is organization enhanced by the use of effective transitions?

- Are there smooth transitions within and between all paragraphs? Are there clear and effective connections between ideas?

Is the essay supported with well-developed paragraphs?

- Is it supported by sufficient ideas and examples? Does it offer at least three well-selected **quotes** from the novel, and are quotes followed up with thoughtful commentary? Does the essay provide accurate and effective explanations? Does it also make connections between the book and Alexie's life by referring to the interview?

Does it have an engaging title, introduction, and conclusion?

- Is the title catchy, and does it signal a specific topic?
- Does the introduction have a hook, and does the conclusion leave readers feeling like the topic matters to them?

Does the essay look accurate in its presentation?

- Does it weave in quotes effectively, avoiding “dropped” quotes?
- Does it follow MLA format? Is the font 12-point Times New Roman? Are the margins 1” exactly? Is it double spaced (without extra line spaces, particularly between paragraphs)?
- Does it include accurate in-text citations and a works cited page?
- **Is it carefully proofread for spelling, punctuation, grammar, and effective word choice?**