

Peer Review General Overview Worksheet: Research Paper

Writer: _____ Reviewer: _____

FOR THE WRITER

1. What is the thesis? (Remember that it should be an **arguable statement**, a claim with reasons.)
2. What is your audience? Forum (where it would be published)? Be as specific as possible.
3. What in particular do you want the reviewer to check?

FOR THE REVIEWER: Write answers on the back of this sheet or a sheet of notebook paper.

1. How is the format, title? Is there a “hook” in the title and/or introductory paragraph that will draw in the target readers? What is this “hook”? What suggestions can you provide to hook the reader?
2. Does the opening section (not necessarily the first paragraph) contain an overview of the topic? _____ Does it orient the reader toward the issue in its current context? _____ Does it look like the writer has *focused* the topic narrowly enough to deal with it adequately in the assigned number of pages? _____
3. **Is the thesis clear, adequate, and supported by the data and arguments provided?** If not, how could it be improved?
4. **Is the thesis supported by significant data and reputable sources?** In other words, does EACH BODY PARAGRAPH connect to cited information and not just the writer’s opinion? Is there too much quoting or paraphrasing? Any places they need to expand on cited information with their own commentary?
5. **How are the source citations?** Are there any parts where the citations seem unclear, incomplete, or missing altogether? ? Mark on the draft any problems you see here, particularly missing citations.
6. **Is the works cited page properly formatted using MLA style?** Do the sources look relevant, recent, reputable, and varied enough? (You might need to discuss the sources with the writer a bit to determine the relevance & variety of opinion issue.)
7. Comment on the **organization** and **coherence** of the essay and of each paragraph. Are the transitions adequate, within and between paragraphs? Mark on the draft where you see any problems. (We will review transitions more in-depth at a later time!)
8. **Is there an argument, or is it merely informative (a “data dump”)?** Does the argument seem balanced and objective, or are there signs of bias? **Note:** “Biased” doesn’t mean just that you have a strong opinion on the subject! It means you seem unable to understand why anyone would not agree with you. Note any problems with tone or slanting of evidence.
9. As a reader, are you left with any questions about the issue that should be further clarified or supported? Be as specific as you can.
10. What do you like best about it? Why?
11. What would you like to see expanded/improved?