**This I Believe Essay: Peer Review #2 Guidelines**

Read through the essay to get a feel for the topic and the structure, marking grammatical and mechanical errors as needed, but do not dwell on this level of correction. Respond FULLY to the questions below. You may also mark on the draft pages themselves, but these questions should be thoroughly addressed (a separate sheet of notebook paper is suggested in addition to comments on the draft)

**As a reader**: Read your partner’s essay carefully, with these questions in mind. *Discuss* your responses with your partner to provide oral feedback and make sure you understand one another. Then, on a blank sheet of paper, answer each of the following questions and give the paper to the writer.

**As a writer**: Listen to your partner’s feedback, answering and asking questions as necessary. Make sure you understand their points before they write their answers to the questions below. Then, at the end of the peer review, take the peer review sheet from your partner. You should keep this review and look over this carefully as you continue to revise your TIB essay. (As you know, you will also hand it in with your final draft for credit.)

1. As a reader, what is your overall impression of the essay? What is the writer’s belief?

2. Has the writer described his/her belief in positive terms (describing what he/she believes, rather than what he/she does not believe)?

3. Has the writer included enough information about an event so that you understand exactly what happened?  Where does the writer need to add more explanation?

4. Has the writer told a personal story to illustrate his/her belief and its significance in his/her own life?

5. Does the writer clearly show the connection between his/her belief and the event? How can that connection become stronger?

6. Where and how might the essay benefit from greater detail, clarification, etc.?

7. Describe the writer’s tone. For example, is his/her tone formal, informal, friendly, cold, conversational, stiff, preachy, domineering, meek, etc.? Do you feel the tone is appropriate, or is this a potential problem area in the essay? Explain your thoughts.

8. Is the essay appropriately personal? That is, do you feel you have a better idea of who the writer is after reading this essay? If you know the writer, does the essay sound like them and contain their voice? How do you know?

9. How could the opening paragraph be made more effective to hook readers' interest and

prepare them for the story to follow?

10. What about the conclusion? How could it be more effective to finish strong and leave readers with a strong impression?

11. Summarize in a list what you see as the chief strengths, and also the chief problem areas, of

the essay. These can include what you’ve already mentioned, as well as additional elements

you think are strong or may need addressing during revision.

12. What other feedback – comments, suggestions, constructive criticism, praise – do you have to offer the writer as they continue to revise the essay?