Using Peer Review to Revise and Improve Your Writing

Peer review is a process by which a piece of writing is checked by others in the same field to make sure that it meets the necessary standards before it is published. You can use the peer review process to help you to improve your writing. Swap papers with a classmate. Read each other’s papers. Answer the questions. When you get your paper back, review your classmate’s answers to the questions, and use their feedback to revise your paper.

Name of author __________________ Name of reviewer____________________

INTRODUCTION:

1. Does the first sentence grab your attention? Is it relevant to the topic?

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2. What do you learn about the writer’s approach in the first paragraph?

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3. Can you identify a thesis statement? Suggest, if possible, a way to improve the introduction or thesis statement.

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4. Is the paper’s purpose clear?

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5. Is the paper’s tone both formal, and appropriate to its intended audience? Explain.

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STRUCTURE

6. Is the organization of the paper evident from the main idea of each paragraph? What are the main concepts explored in the paper? Does each paragraph make a relevant point that is distinct from what has already been covered? What are the main conclusions?

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CLARITY/STYLE

7. Is the paper free of distracting grammar, punctuation, spelling, or word usage problems? Circle any problem you find. If you find awkward sentences, try to explain why they don’t make sense to you.

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RESOURCES

8. Are the author’s sources clearly identified, and are proper in-text and/or reference formats used?

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GENERAL

9. What is/are the paper’s greatest strength(s)? Explain.

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