

Utah State University Writing Center's

TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE PEER FEEDBACK

Good writing is more than just good grammar. Here are some questions and tasks to help students give each other meaningful writing and content feedback.

Thesis Statement and Conclusion:

1. Identify and highlight the thesis statement. (Make a note if you cannot find it.)
2. Does the thesis fully answer the prompt?
 - a. If no, what's missing?
3. Does any part of the thesis seem vague or confusing?
 - a. If yes, what part?
4. Does the conclusion answer the "So what?" question?

Paragraph and Idea Development:

1. Next to each body paragraph, write a word or phrase that summarizes the paragraph's ONE main idea.
 - a. Make a note of the paragraphs that contain more than one main idea.
2. In each body paragraph, does the main idea you identified appear in the topic statement (aka first sentence)?
 - a. If no, make a note of which paragraphs have misleading topic statements.
3. Does the topic statement of each paragraph make a claim or argument about the paragraph's main idea? (A topic statement shouldn't just announce the subject of the paragraph; it should make an assertion or connection about the paragraph's topic.)
 - a. If no, make a note of which topic statements need a claim.
4. Does the main idea of every body paragraph support the thesis statement?
 - a. If no, make a note of the paragraphs that do not support the thesis.

Grammar and Readability:

1. Read the entire paper aloud.
 - a. Make a note of any areas that seem particularly confusing or unclear.
 - b. Make a note of any areas that seem unnecessarily wordy.
2. Do you notice a repeating grammar error in the paper?
 - a. If yes, highlight one instance of the error. Google the grammar error and add a link to a resource that explains how to fix it.

Praise:

1. Identify a strong main idea or connection. What makes it strong?
2. Identify an area of the essay that does a good job communicating a complicated idea.
3. What impressed you most about this essay?
4. What is one strength the writer demonstrates in this essay?