

# Peer Reviews

## **What is a Peer Review?**

A Peer Review is an activity that involves having classmates or friends review your writing (usually a first or rough draft) and provide feedback on content and organization.

## **What are the benefits of a Peer Review?**

A peer can help you view your writing critically to see if you responded appropriately to the assigned task. As you read each other's drafts, you will be able to see how your classmate(s) may have taken a different approach to the same assignment and/or how they may have responded to the readings differently. A peer reviewer can also help you to identify errors and confusing aspects of your writing that you might not notice.

## **What information is needed to complete a Peer Review?**

Every participant in a Peer Review should have a copy of the detailed directions for the written assignment, a rubric or list of questions to guide the review (see below), and a copy of their own draft.

## **What questions should you consider as you read a peer's paper?**

### Ideas:

Who is the audience? Does the writer address that audience?

What is the writer's main point?

Is there an identifiable thesis statement? What is it?

Does the writer include evidence to support the thesis?

Does the writer use quotes, data, or statistics as evidence?

Does the paper include topics or information unrelated to the thesis?

## **The Writing Center**

# Peer Reviews

## Organization:

Does the writer have a topic sentence for each paragraph?

Do the topic sentences relate to and support the thesis statement?

Are the writer's ideas expressed in a logical order?

Does the paper flow smoothly from one point to the next? If not, point out areas where the flow of information is interrupted or the transitions are abrupt.

Are you satisfied with how the paper ends? Does the paper end abruptly?

Are there any points that are not fully explained? Suggest areas that might need more information.

## Style:

Does the writer use language appropriately or does the writer use unfamiliar jargon or slang?

Is the verb tense consistent throughout the paper?

Unless otherwise assigned, is the paper written in third person?

Do the individual sentences make sense?

Are there any noticeable problems with grammar and punctuation?

Is the paper written in the proper format? (MLA, APA, or Chicago)

Final thoughts...

*When providing feedback to a classmate, be kind and respectful. DO NOT criticize the writer for specific viewpoints or point out every error. Instead, offer questions to consider or suggestions for improvement.*

*Do not expect your peers to identify every error. As the writer, you are responsible for the final proofreading and editing process.*

## **The Writing Center**

Trident Technical College Thornley Campus  
Building 510/ Room 137

writingcenter@tridenttech.edu  
574-6623