

The Visual Research-Based Argument Project 2

Peer Review Questions for Draft I

Your Name: _____

Answer first before handing your paper to your peer review partners:

- What for you was the most frustrating part of producing this draft?
- What was the best part?
- What specific feedback would you like to receive from your peer review group about this draft?

Purpose: The purpose of peer review is for you to help each other advance beyond the draft stage toward the finished paper and learn effective writing strategies in the process. **Remember:** your goal is not to edit but to offer specific suggestions for improvement and to identify particularly effective writing strategies. Please make your comments both *constructive* and *helpful*.

Directions: In-class: start by discussing your ideas and concerns first and then move on to reading and commenting on the projects. *If you are in a computer classroom, download your files to the computers first. If you are in a regular classroom, exchange your papers in small groups.* After you have discussed your concerns with your peer reviewers, then begin to make comments on the drafts. But do read through a paper once first before making comments. Then, during the second reading, make annotations using your computers or your pens. *If you are in a computer classroom, save the commented file under a new name and at the end of class email it back to the writer.* When you are done making comments on the paper, complete the Peer Review Draft I questions below.

Special Note on Procedure: Depending on the state of Draft I (the “sh***y first draft”), you may wish to write general comments first and then figure out how much detail you can provide on the attached questions. In other words, you should decide *as a group* how best to proceed with peer review for this first draft. Figure out what works best for the people in your group.

Keep calm. You will get through this. And you will learn a lot in the process!

DRAFT I PEER REVIEW QUESTIONS:

Writer's Name: _____ Peer Reviewer's Name: _____
Title of the Essay: _____

1. **Thesis.** Without looking at the paper, summarize or paraphrase the author's argument or main point that s/he is trying to convey to the reader.
2. **Introduction: strategies.** Does the introduction make you want to keep reading? Why or why not? How would you characterize the writing strategies used in the introduction?
3. **Introduction: Follow-through.** Having read the rest of the draft, did you find that the introduction gave you a good idea of what the author actually will address in the rest of the paper? If not, what is the main point that the author seems to be making?
4. **Background and Definition.** Does it seem like the author will provide his/her reader with a sufficient background or theoretical framework to understand the paper's central argument? Are all the important terms defined? Is this definition done at an appropriate place in the paper?
5. **Organization.** Can you find any places where you feel the organization could be rearranged for better effect? Spend some time analyzing how the paper will look as a completed essay - how it will flow - before answering this question. Is there any way to reorganize the elements in the essay to make it a better "narrative" - i.e., a more engaging read?
6. **Relevance vs. Tangents.** Are there any points of the argument that don't seem to fit - where the author seems to go off on a tangent? Are there any points that don't really seem relevant to the discussion at hand?
7. **Research.** As far as you can tell, are there any holes in the author's research? What points need further development? Can you think of any interesting and perhaps unusual approaches to the research that the author might not have considered that might enrich his/her argument?
8. **Opposition and Concession.** Does the author take into account viewpoints opposed to his or her own? Does s/he need to do more of this? Does s/he need to tone it down?
9. **Formal Strategies.** Can you offer the author any suggestions pertaining to the form of the essay? Would an epigraph work? How about sub-headers? What further examples could be incorporated into the paper to concretize and support the argument? What sort of graphs, tables, or other visual materials could be integrated into the body of the argument to support the author's points?
10. **Conclusion: Follow-Through.** Does the conclusion seem to tie the paper together? Does it rely too heavily on summary? Do you feel that the author ends on a powerful note? Even more importantly, read the conclusion next to the introduction. Does the author end up proving what s/he said s/he would in the beginning of the paper? Describe alternative strategies that you feel might work well in the conclusion.
11. **Documentation & Quoting.** Is the documentation, as far as it is used in the draft, correct? Does the author use quotes effectively? Does s/he integrate them well, or are they simply inserted? Does the author use too many quotes? Too few? Are there appropriate uses of paraphrase and summary as well?
12. **Visual Rhetoric.** Does the author include visual rhetoric in the draft? If so, is it used effectively? Is its function ornamental or argumentative? Please give the author advice about the use of visual rhetoric, including suggestions for inclusions (or exclusions!) that may impact the argument of the paper.
13. **Final comments.** Write the author a brief note about the paper. In particular, focus on what your agenda for the next stage of revision would be if this were your paper.