

## Peer Review Checklist

### General

- Is the title interesting and informative? Does it create a favorable first impression?
- Does the draft fulfill the specifications (e.g. length, topic, etc.) of the assignment?
- Is the audience kept in mind? Are specialized terms defined? Are the language and tone appropriate for an academic audience?
- Is the organization clear, reasonable, and effective? How are the transitions? Does the essay become hard to read or lose its coherence? Where? How might you fix it?
- Does the essay remain within the chosen text(s)? If there are any generalizations, speculations, clichés, idiomatic expressions, or colloquialisms underline them so that you can point them out to your peer(s).
- What has the writer done well in his or her essay? Provide positive comments about the strength(s) of the essay.

### Quotations and Citations

- Are quotations adequately introduced with attributive tags (e.g. “the narrator says,” “she writes,” etc.), or do they simply appear? Are quotations as brief as possible? If not, what can be cut as extraneous material?
- Does the author adequately discuss the quotations? Is it clear why they are used?
- Are *all* sources cited, including paraphrased information?
- Is the works cited page included? Is the documentation correct?

### Introduction

- Is the draft sufficiently focused around a clear thesis? Is the scope of the argument too broad? Too narrow?
- Is the thesis clearly written? Is it compelling?
- Is there any seemingly extraneous information included in the introduction (summary, broad and sweeping statements, etc.)?
- Having read the entire essay, does the introduction fit the paper?

### **Body**

- Does each paragraph have one specific focus? When the writer introduces a new topic, does he or she begin a new paragraph?
- How is the evidence linked to the main point of the paragraph? Does each paragraph contribute to the essay's main point or thesis?
- Is there any seemingly extraneous information throughout the body of the paper, such as plot summary, excessive quotation, or unsupported claims?
- Are arguable assertions supported with adequate evidence?

### **Conclusion**

- Has the writer *restated* (but not simply repeated) the major claim of the paper in the light of its discussion throughout? What should the reader have learned by the end of the argument?
- Does the conclusion nicely round off the paper, bringing it to a close, or does it unnecessarily repeat what is already obvious within the paper?