

# PEER RESPONSE

## DIRECTIONS FOR STUDENTS

1. While reading, mark the paper in three ways:
  - (1) draw a wiggly line under parts that cause problems for you in comprehension and/or aesthetic appreciation
  - (2) draw a straight line under words, phrases, or sentences that you especially like or to which you have a strong positive response;
  - (3) \***OPTIONAL**\* put a ✓ at the end of any line that contains (or you think contains) a mechanical error (or errors).
  
2. Include at least two “I” statements about things that work for you and two on things that don’t. *Give specific examples for each and, if possible, explain why.* Give your response, not your judgment.

<b>Use “I” Statements</b> <i>(let the writer know how you responded)</i>	
<b>HELPFUL THINGS TO SAY</b>	<b>THINGS NOT TO SAY</b>
“I wanted to hear more about ...”	“I think you should change...”
“I wasn’t convinced until the part when...”	“I felt you did a good job with...”
“I don’t understand how _____ fits with the rest of the paragraph.”	“I believe that you should...”
“I was interested ( <i>OR relieved, frustrated, confused, etc.</i> ) by the _____ because...”	“I thought the paper was pretty good.”

3. Include several open-ended, non-leading questions (i.e., not YES/NO or “Don’t you think . . .?” nor “Wouldn’t it be better if . . . ?”)

<b>Ask Honest Questions</b> <i>(ones you actually want answered and don’t have answers to)</i>	
<b>HELPFUL THINGS TO SAY</b>	<b>THINGS NOT TO SAY</b>
“Why did you include the part about _____?”	“Don’t you think it would be good to ...?”
“What happened to the discussion of the idea that _____?”	“Wouldn’t it be better if you...?”
“How do you know that _____ is true or valid?”	“Why not cut the part about...?”
“Where did you see evidence for the idea that _____?”	“Why don’t you just start over...?”

### TIPS

- Remember the basic goal: *helping the writer improve as a writer (not fixing this one paper).*
- Be positive AND honest.
- Do not judge nor evaluate.
- Pay attention to your responses as you read.
- Ask questions about things you truly don’t understand.
- Be specific: Use examples of things in the writing that made you feel the way you do.
- Don’t be embarrassed about your response.
- Be thorough.
- **Give the type of response you want to receive.**

*Remember that you are **not** talking about the writing at all; you are reporting on **your** experience of it.*