

Peer Editing Questionnaire

Media, Ed and Marketplace 21F.034 / CMS.930

September 15, 2005 Diane Hendrix, Writing Tutor

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

writer: _____

For the writer: Briefly explain your goals with your paper and why you have chosen to set it up as you did. What aspects of your writing do you need help with? What should a reader look for? (make notes here, and turn in to your TA with a finished paper)

FOR the READER

reader: _____

What is the thesis or argument of the essay, as you can understand it from reading? State it in one sentence below.

Discuss the argument with the writer. Has the writer made a point that is arguable? Is the argument focused enough to be supported in a short essay? Could it be sharpened in any way? Make notes about your conversation with the writer about how to improve the essay's arguments.

Based on the points outlined in the rest of the paper, are the examples and evidence adequate to build a convincing argument for the thesis? What other examples might help? How well constructed is the first paragraph? Does it satisfy the demands for a thorough opening to an essay, telling us what the writer's position is and how it will be addressed in the essay? Make notes below.

Now to play devil's advocate. Reader should imagine the shape of an argument that disagrees with this one. What evidence or examples could challenge the argument the writer has made here?

The writer should think about those alternative arguments – does she/he agree or disagree? Make notes for future reference and revision of the paper.

FOR THE WRITER: Which of the two positions or arguments makes the stronger case, and which calls for more elaboration?

FOR THE READER: Does this seem to be a wise choice?

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