



Writing Group & Peer Feedback

Peer feedback is a strategy used to improve the quality and depth of written assignments; peer feedback occurs at multiple points during the writing process. When it happens early on, the expectation is that your peers help you think through the possibilities and provide you options for how you can proceed. If the feedback occurs at the middle or close to the end of the process, the expectation is that your peers are helping you refine your phrasing, clarify points that are unclear, smooth out awkward sections, etc. Your feedback partners are supposed to help you with content, word choice, and clarity not necessarily grammar. Editing is a different stage in the writing process and grammar issues are handled then rather than at feedback points.

You will be giving and getting feedback on multiple drafts of your writing during this semester. As a writer, you will need to ask for the feedback that will be most useful. As a reader of someone else's work, you will need to think both about the kinds of feedback s/he requested as well as the parameters of the assignment or task.

Here are some helpful stems to use when asking for or giving feedback:

Asking for Feedback:

- I am struggling with...
- I don't know if my lead is clear...
- I am not sure that I have explained the topic well, could you look for...?
- Have I given enough detail to make what happened clear?
- Have I given the reader enough or too much information?
- Do I have good transitions?
- Are there sections that need clarifying?
- Does this flow? Does this make sense?
- How do I...?
- Is this piece organized well? Is there a strong path for the reader to follow?

Giving Feedback:

- A strength in your work is...
- I like the way that you...
- What I like about this section is...
- What I am confused about here is...
- Your lead is strong and...
- I am struggling to understand this section...because...
- It would be helpful to me, as the reader, if you...
- I would like to know more about...
- This section is strong because...
- You have a well-developed idea in...
- You could rearrange this section in order to...
- I understand your argument/structure but would like to see...
- I am not sure I know what your lead is...
- Your transitions are strong/weak and...
- You have several striking words and phrases that grab the my attention; but this section needs...