

D. Peer Review

Suggestions how to make your essay better

Show examples of problems on the actual essay, plus complete this page using this scoring system:

X= not a problem

= a minor problem

= a bigger problem

The initial of your last name plus the last 4 numbers of your student ID: _____

The student's full name of the paper you reviewed: _____

Opening/ Introduction

Put a clearer thesis statement at the beginning of the essay. It really helps the reader know what the subject is about.

Give the reader a clear but brief overview of which main points will be addressed in this essay.

Body

The first sentence of each paragraph (also known as the topic sentence) needs to better convey the overall main point of that paragraph.

I'm often not sure of the purpose of each paragraph because you've included too many main ideas in it. Here's what I suggest: first determine what is the main point of the paragraph. Then be sure you include enough evidence to back up this point, and *only* this point. If your paragraph is getting long, it may be a good idea to re-read the paragraph and see if you should break it down into multiple paragraphs or see if you have drifted off the topic.

I read all your topic sentences, but I couldn't follow the "story" (the logical flow) of your paper. Try to re-work the order of how the ideas of your paper unfold.

Quotations were simply 'stuck in' – try to smoothly integrate them into your essay, (e.g., first introduce them and/or discuss them directly afterwards).

Language and Mechanics:

Try to make the paper sound more "professional" (e.g., remove any slang, abbreviations, contractions, *I* or *we*).

Try to phrase your sentences so the paper sounds less complicated. To increase clarity, consider choosing simpler words or simplifying the sentence structure.

Some sentences seem long and awkward, so try dividing them into two simpler sentences.

There are too many spelling errors and this is distracting.

To make your paper more concise, try editing out unnecessary words or phrases. Also you have repeated some ideas unnecessarily.

The flow of ideas in your paper may seem obvious to you, but it would help the reader if you could add a few more links between your sentences or paragraphs to help guide the reader through your thought process.

Read aloud your paper to help catch errors in punctuation (e.g., too many or too few commas)

There were too many grammatical errors and this was distracting. You had some difficulty with (tick off all that apply):

agreement involving pronouns (e.g. someone lost their wallet)

subject-verb agreement (e.g. neither of them want to do it; many newspapers, including The Gazette, is published daily)

shifts in verb tense e.g. switching back and forth from present to past for no reason

missing or misplaced apostrophes (e.g., societys problems; two student's work)

APA style needs work (e.g., 1 inch margins, double spaced, running head + page number, cover page,)

Re-read the course pack on how to use APA style used for in-text citations (e.g., parentheses, last name only, plus date, the title of the article is not including in your text, only in the reference page)

Re-read the course pack on how to do an APA style reference page

On the back of this sheet, write down what you especially liked about this paper