

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 and scope of the essay is early on.

☒ 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 ▲▲▲▲