

Instructions for Peer Review of Term Papers

I have attached my assignment sheets, below.

Here is a general outline with two students A and B.

Both A and B write first drafts of their paper.

They exchange their papers in class on the specified day and fill out the peer review form at home. I gave them a week to do this.

On the day that the peer reviews were due, A and B come to class and bring a second copy of their first draft, and two copies of their peer review. They sit down with their partner and discuss the items that the reviewer found good and that they thought needed improvement. At the end of the class one copy of the peer review went to their partner, and one copy was clipped to a draft of their paper and handed into me.

Just prior to the end of the class, about 10 minutes before the end, I handed out the self-evaluation form. Each student answered these two questions before leaving and handed the self-evaluation into me with their paper draft the peer review (written by their partner, of course).

I graded the peer reviews and the self-evaluations. The peer reviews were given a numerical grade. The self-evaluations were graded on a mastery basis. They got the two points if they answered the questions, and they got zero points if they did not.

I did not read the first drafts unless there was something that I could not understand in the peer review. Then I looked at the draft to clarify what the peer reviewer meant.

While I was doing the grading, the students were rewriting their papers based on the feedback they had received.

If students had questions that they did not understand (see self-evaluation), I would get back to them with additional information to help them prepare their final draft.

The final papers were much better after adopting this procedure.

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Term Paper

Peer Evaluation of First Draft

The 1st Draft of the paper is due ***

Your peer-review of the paper is due ***

You will exchange your paper draft with a colleague on *, write a peer-review of the paper you receive, and bring your review to class on ***. Fuller instructions are given below.**

YOU MUST ATTEND CLASS THE DAY THAT THE FIRST DRAFT IS DUE, AND THE DAY YOUR PEER EVALUATION IS DUE. FAILURE TO ATTEND BOTH DAYS FOR THE FULL CLASS PERIOD WILL RESULT IN A ZERO ON THIS ASSIGNMENT.

Author of Paper: _____.

Name of Reviewer: _____.

Title of Paper: _____.

Directions: Use the electronic version of this sheet to **type your answers** to the following questions. Insert your answers below the questions. Please use a font other than Times Roman so that we can easily find your comments. Be as thoughtful, clear, and helpful as possible. Use complete sentences and specific examples to assure clarity in your advice. Your review will be graded on the thoughtfulness and helpfulness of your responses (8 pts). Please bring **TWO COPIES of BOTH your review and the paper you are reviewing to class.** One copy is for the author, and one is for Dr. Kirchoff.

1. Overall situation: How near to completion is this paper? What steps should the author take to complete this paper? Be both specific and helpful in listing the three most important steps below.
2. Organization: Is the paper organized in the standard pattern: an introduction followed by the body of the paper presenting an argument in a reasonable sequence, and concluded by a summary with suggestions of the broader implications of the work? If there is an alternative organization, describe it and evaluate its effectiveness.
3. Introduction: The first few paragraphs should introduce a question and prepare the reader for the way the author intends to answer it.
 - a. Does the introduction explain the question to be examined in the paper and why the question is important?
 - b. After reading the paper, evaluate whether you think the first section introduces what you have read.
4. Body of the paper: The major portion of the paper should present the argument in a clear and interesting fashion.
 - a. Outline in some detail the major points established in the body of the paper and the evidence or arguments used to support the points.

- b. Does each sentence follow logically from the preceding one?
 - c. Has the author organized the information in the body of the paper in the most effective way? If not, suggest improvements.
 - d. Has the writer handled citations and references correctly?
5. Conclusions: A conclusion can include several things: a restatement of the overall argument of the paper, a summary of the key points, combination of several points to make a final point, etc. Good conclusions often take build from the work presented in the paper, and suggest broader implications.
- a. What from has the writer used to conclude the paper?
 - b. Does the conclusion seem to be supported by the body of the paper? How or how not?
 - c. Does the author include a discussion of the broader implications?
6. Interest / Importance:
- a. List three things (small or large) that are interesting to you about this paper.
 - b. Why is this paper important?
7. Further Research: What sources would lend support to this argument? What are they? How would including these references help this paper?

Biology 430 – Term Paper
Self evaluation of paper following peer evaluation
Assigned and due **March 22**, in class

Name:

Title of paper:

Please write clearly. This assignment is worth two (2) points.

1. As a result of classmates' evaluations, I will change my paper as follows:

2. My paper could be improved further if I could understand the following problems: