

Tips for Peer Review

Here are the tips we came up with as a class for commenting on one another's papers:

Before you submit your draft:

- Write some questions at the end of your paper that you want your reviewer to focus on. Don't be too specific, though. One of the most helpful things your reviewer can do is notice things that you haven't even thought about.

When commenting on your classmate's work:

- Use the rubric to determine what is most important for you to give feedback on in the paper. Break down your comments by explaining whether they relate to the thesis, analysis, or organisation etc. If you think an aspect of the paper doesn't satisfy the rubric, explain how.
- Mix constructive criticism with positive feedback. Remember, you are not just trying to make the writer feel good, you are trying to help them understand how they can improve their work.
- Be very specific. Point to which sentences and paragraphs in particular need work and explain exactly what you think needs to improve.
- Provide feedback on how well the writer relates each piece of evidence to their thesis.
- Instead of correcting grammar, give feedback on the tone of the writing.
- Give feedback on the structure. Consider summarising what you understand the writer's argument to be so they can see their work with fresh eyes.