

## WRIT 120 – PEER REVIEW: Academic Argument Paper

Reviewer of the paper: \_\_\_\_\_

Writer of paper: \_\_\_\_\_

### Instructions

- 1) Read all the questions below so you can be aware of what to look for as you read.
- 2) Read your peer's draft, making marginal notes with your word processor's comment features.
  - a. Note grammatical errors. (Try to identify the problem without fixing it for the writer.)
  - b. Note stylistic problems (e.g., lack of clarity) and successes (e.g., engaging phrases).
  - c. Ask critical questions or make critical observations from the perspectives of both believers and doubters. (Try to make at least one critical remark for each paragraph.)
- 3) After reading the whole paper, complete the rest of this document. *While you do not need to answer all the questions in each section, do try to give a paragraph of feedback in each area.*
- 4) E-mail the marked-up draft and this peer-review form to your classmate (CC-ing the instructor).

### A. The grammar and style of writing should be formal, but engaging.

Is the writing style both clear and engaging?

Does the writer convey the proper academic voice (i.e., authoritative, objective, etc.)?

Do you see any recurrent grammatical or stylistic problems? (If so, what are they?)

What is the strongest paragraph in terms of style and clarity?

What is the weakest paragraph in terms of style and clarity?

### B. The argumentative thesis should assert an arguable claim about a definitional, causal, or evaluative issue.

What is the paper's thesis? (If you can't identify it, tell the writer.)

Does the thesis argue a variation of one of these three types of claims: **definitional** (X is/is not a Y), **causal** (X did/did not cause Y), or **evaluative** (X is a good/bad Y)? (What type of claim is it?)

Is the thesis arguable, a point of debate that can be treated sufficiently in scope of the paper? (Explain)

How might the thesis be made stronger (more detail, different emphasis, etc.)?

Does the introduction to the thesis sufficiently explain the issue debated? (How could it be improved?)

### **C. The organization and development of ideas should demonstrate the thesis.**

- Are the key pieces of the opening thesis treated sufficiently in the body of the paper?
- Are the body paragraphs cohesive, focused, and purposeful in presenting reasons and evidence?
- Does the body of the **evaluative** or **definitional** argument explain criteria for the category (Y-term), match the criteria to the specimen (X-term), and back the reasoning with evidence?
- Does the body of the **causal** argument explain questionable causal links, provide evidence, etc.?
- Does the paper address obvious counter-arguments with rebuttals or qualifiers?
- Does the conclusion discuss implications of the thesis (or just repeat key points from the body)?
- What are the strongest and weakest paragraphs in terms of how they support the thesis?

### **D. The sources analyzed should be treated accurately, objectively, & sufficiently.**

- Are sources sufficiently introduced and their relevance to the argument made clear?
- Are sources treated critically and analytically, used primarily as support for writer's original points?
- Are sources used effectively and fairly to back the reasoning?
- Are sources used effectively and fairly to present the opposing point of view?
- Is any research clearly lacking for the purposes of the argument? (e.g., missing data, viewpoints)?

### **E. The formatting and documentation style should follow APA guidelines.**

- Does the paper follow proper APA formatting guidelines? (If not, what is wrong?)
- Does the writer cite outside sources by using proper APA in-text citation and quotation formatting?
- Is a References page provided at the end of the paper for every source cited in the body?
- Are the References entries properly formatted? (See *Franklin Style Manual* 2.3)
- Does the References page cite sources not used in the body of the paper? (It shouldn't.)