

USING PEER REVIEW TO IMPROVE STUDENT WRITING

SUPPLEMENT 5: PEER CRITIQUES HANDOUT

Peer Critiques Handout

Write out a full outline of the essay's **main points**, skipping the introduction and conclusion.

What do you see as the essay's main **topic** (What do all the above paragraphs have in common, subject-wise)?

What do you see as the essay's main **thesis** (how do all the paragraphs compare, contrast and come together to form an argument)?

Does this interpretation agree with the author's stated thesis? In what ways might the paper need to change so that its structure more effectively supports the thesis?

Where is more **evidence** needed?

Where are more **interpretations** needed?

Where do more **connections or explicit contrasts** need to be made between points?

Does the essay **open** in an appealing, purposeful way? How else might the essay begin, to better capture and direct our attention?

Does the essay draw a thought-provoking conclusion that puts its argument in a larger context? What else might the conclusion explore?