

Peer Editing Handout

In our classroom, each student is appreciated, entitled to their opinion, and viewed as a valuable source of knowledge. Because of this, we can all learn from each other. In fact, we learn best when we work together maximizing your peer's learning as well as your own. In small groups, you will edit each other's practice summaries.

Rules for Peer Editing

1. Be constructive → try to make suggestions & corrections in a positive way; the point is to learn from each other, not decide if something is “right” or “wrong”
2. Be specific → give the author specific ideas on how to improve his or her writing
3. Be confident → a draft of any writing is a work in progress, no one is expecting perfection on a first draft
4. Be effective → offer suggestions, edit in a way that you would want someone to edit your paper
5. Focus on strengths → you should always note the strengths as well as offer suggestions

3 Steps for Peer Editing

1. Overview of the paper's **strengths**
 - Remember you are *helping* a classmate, just like they are *helping* you
 - Use language like:
 - Your strengths as a writer are...
 - Your strongest part is
 - I liked the way you ...
2. Offer **suggestions**
 - Remember to stay positive and be specific
 - Phrase your comments from the reader's point of view
 - Instead of saying, “this doesn't make sense,” say something like, “I'm having trouble understanding, but if you explain it more fully it will be more clear”
 - Try phrasing your comments as questions
 - Instead of saying, “word choice is confusing,” say something like, “I'm not following this, could you be more specific in your use of terms?”
3. **Corrections**
 - Check your peer's paper for:
 - Spelling
 - Grammar
 - Punctuation