

Writer: _____

College App. Essay Peer Review

Reviewer: _____

Read through your peer's essay twice before answering the following questions. Let it wash over you first—take it in holistically. Then critique it carefully and thoroughly. Please remember: the more specific your comments, the more helpful your comments will be for the writer.

Structure

1. Do the first few sentences draw you in and engage you? Why/why not?
2. Does the first paragraph establish the context of the subject/prompt without sounding formulaic or unnatural? Identify any areas that don't.
3. Does the body of the essay move clearly and logically from point to point (coherence)? Do they move smoothly from point to point with appropriate transitions? Identify any areas where the writing is unclear.
4. Does the essay answer and stick to the prompt (unity)? Identify any areas where the writer strays off topic or focuses more on external aspects than personal response to them.
5. Does the essay have a satisfactory conclusion? What do you take away from it as the important insight gained by the writer as a result? How does it impact you?
6. How does the writing flow? Are the sentences varied enough to imitate the rhythm of natural speech? Note line numbers of any awkward places in this essay that feel mechanical or unnatural because of sentence structure/syntax. Feel free to offer suggestions!

Language & Concreteness

7. Are there places where the writer does more telling than showing? Note line numbers and briefly comment about using concrete imagery to replace too much abstract language.

8. Note any examples of figurative language (metaphors, similes, etc.)

9. Note any grammatical, mechanical, and spelling mistakes and their line numbers:

10. What is your favorite sentence in this essay? Why?

11. What did you learn about this writer that you would not have seen in the résumé part of the application?