

Writer: _____

Memoir Peer Review

Reviewer: _____

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

Structure & Syntax

1. Do the first few lines draw you in and engage you? Why/why not?
2. Does the first paragraph establish the context of the story (setting, event, etc.)?

How well does it establish tone and mood? Give specific comments to support your conclusion.

3. Does the story follow the basic rudiments of plot development: establishing conflict early, detailing events that build to a climax/moment of crisis/epiphany, and resolving?
Please discuss the effectiveness of plot development below:

4. 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?

5. How does the writing flow? Are the sentences varied for effect? Do they move smoothly from point to point with appropriate transitions? Complete the sentence analysis sheet on the next page.

Language & Concreteness

6. Note any places where the writer does more telling than showing. Add any comments following line numbers.

7. Note any examples of figurative language and their levels of recognition and effectiveness:
(Level 1: I've heard it before / Level 2: relatively simple connection, but original / Level 3: Wow! I never would have made that connection on my own—it's awesome! (fresh connection))

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