

Peer Review Suggestions

Tips for Reading

- If possible, begin by asking the writer about the draft. What is the writer struggling with? What should you (as the reader) pay attention to? What is going well? Use the writer's responses to help shape your reading and response to the draft.
- Give each draft the same attention and focus you would want for your own!
- Make notes on drafts, but also take into account that too much writing can cause the most important insights/comments/questions/suggestions to get lost.

Tips for Feedback

DO

- **Be positive!** Point out what's working with a draft. Examples of what works can help prompt ideas for expanding already strong parts of a draft.
- **Be specific.** Explain why something does or does not work for you. By telling the writer what's going on in your head, they can better address and incorporate your feedback.
- **Focus on GLOBAL aspects of a draft first.** Feedback on the global will not only affect the whole draft, but will also automatically spur changes at the local (sentence) level.
- **Encourage revision.** Sometimes we can see where writers can go deeper, explain more, or elaborate on an element/topic/section that's important or interesting in the paper.
- **Ask questions** about the draft, the writer's choices, etc. Questions will help prompt the writer's thinking and re-thinking of the draft (questions to consider are below).

DON'T

- **Give generalities or vague feedback.** No one benefits from leaving feedback at "it was good." Authors want to know *why* it was good so they can keep doing it!
- **Take authorship or someone else's work.** No one learns from someone else writing for them. Instead, discuss ideas, make suggestions, and ask questions to help the author revise their own writing.
- **Only copy-edit.** Focusing on grammar or local concerns (sentence-level) doesn't help the writer think through the whole of the draft and how it may or may not meet expectations. Only focus on these if it gets in the way of your understanding or if the author expressly asks for it.
- **Only give critical (negative) feedback.** Only telling the author that it doesn't work doesn't help them move forward. Instead offer constructive feedback (ideas, questions, suggestions) that helps them build on their draft.

Questions to Consider

- Is the draft meeting the expectations expressed in the prompt?
- Is the author's purpose clear?
- Does the draft's organization align with the purpose?
- Does the author share AND explain evidence to support their goal(s)?
- What is the most interesting part(s) of the draft to the reader?