

## **Peer Editing Guide**

### **AP English Lang/Comp**

#### **Harrell**

When you're working in a team whose task is to offer comments to each other as a writing community, certain things are helpful and others are not. If you feel like you need specific help on some aspect of your essay, ask your peer team to pay special attention to that in their commenting on your paper. They will, of course, certainly have other things to comment on than that, but by all means make your needs known if you have a specific concern. As you make comments on a colleague's paper, think about the kind of care and attention that you hope the others will give to yours. Don't hesitate to criticize and point out real flaws, but keep the tone professional and focused on being genuinely helpful. Never offer insulting or degrading comments. Comments may offer encouragement for something you really think is effective as well as suggestions for things that seem not to work.

You are NOT expected to offer mechanical/grammatical fixes or comments. If you see a major problem of that nature in a colleague's work, just make a single comment pointing out that there is a recurring problem of whatever kind it is you see.

Have these questions in mind as you read and comment:

- Is the opening paragraph effective in engaging my attention? Is there a clear thesis?
- Is the opening sentence or two a "grabber?"
- Are the sentence styles effectively varied? Is the essay tedious to read, or does it read smoothly?
- Does the logical structure of the discussion unfold as it should? Is there a weak link in the reasoning somewhere? If something you see just does not make sense, point it out and explain why you think it doesn't work.
- Are the transitions between paragraphs effective? Do they feel natural or contrived?
- Are the ideas effectively illustrated and sufficiently explained?
- Is the writer's position absolutely clear, or is it vague? Explain as needed and offer suggestions.
- Does the conclusion actually conclude something, or does it merely recap the argument? Is there a strong and effective relationship between the first and last paragraphs?
- Is supporting evidence effective? Is it well placed and presented?
- To what extent are you persuaded by the essay? If not, say why. If yes, how has your view been changed and to what extent?