

Op-Ed DRAFT 1 Peer Review Guide

OVERVIEW: *What is peer review?*

The kind of feedback that you will be providing for your peers in this course may be new to you. That is okay! You already have the tools and skills you need—you’ve been reading your whole life, after all.

The Peer Review process is about trusting your responses as a reader. When you do not understand something, for example, the writer has likely not communicated their content as best as possible. When you are confused, the writer might need to articulate their ideas in a more straightforward way.

We often think that when we do not “get” something, it is due to our shortcomings as readers. Quite the opposite. It is up to the writer to make their prose comprehensible to their audience.

So, with that in mind:

Our work in peer review groups this semester will involve your reading drafts from your classmates and preparing feedback for verbal and/or written delivery.

For Draft 1, we will focus on identifying high-order concerns related to the content and argument position of the op-ed. As you read, please take notes on each of the following questions for each writer’s draft. Come to class prepared to share your insights and feedback with the writer and your group members.

1. Does the op-ed establish a current conversation of interest to a particular community? Explain your response.
2. Has the writer used “they say / I say” rhetorical moves effectively? Where?
3. Does this op-ed adopt a clear position? Is the viewpoint narrow and focused?
4. How convincing is the writer’s support for this position? What could be improved?
5. What, in your opinion, is the strongest feature of this draft?