

Guide for revision or peer exchange of drafts

Here is a series of questions you can use to give feedback to a friend or classmate about his or her paper. This guide can also be used when you are revising your own paper.

1. Does the draft appear to have a clear **thesis**, or central concept? Do you think this thesis can be adequately developed within the length limit of the assignment? If not, how could it be more specifically focused?
2. Do you see evidence that the thesis is **developed** and explained in subsequent parts of the paper? Is it clear to you how the discussion links back to the thesis as the paper moves along? If not, how could the writer develop these links? Look closely for **explicit connections** to the thesis in each body paragraph, particularly in the paragraphs' opening and closing sentences.
3. Is all the material related to one aspect of the thesis **organized** together in one part of the paper? Where do organizational **categories** seem to overlap? Identify any areas in which you feel confused as to the writer's purpose.
4. Does the **evidence** from course texts or outside sources support the points the writer thinks it supports? Is evidence from texts integrated smoothly into the paper?
5. Is each **major point** supported by direct references to one or more texts? If the essay is argumentative, make sure the writer is *not* trying to summarize the course texts or reproduce everything learned in the course, but instead is referring to **selected** areas of the texts in order to add specificity to the argument.
6. Does the paper show evidence of **critical thinking**? What questions would you ask this writer to prompt a deeper discussion of a particular issue or issues? Note any statements that seem illogical or confusing.
7. Does each **sentence** convey **one** clear idea? If not, show the writer where ideas need to be separated and explained in greater detail.
8. Does each **paragraph** function as a **unit**, explaining one aspect of the overarching idea? Look for statements that should be moved from one paragraph to another. Also note paragraphs that seem underdeveloped or that might be combined with other material. Use a numbering system or colours as a guide for reorganization.
9. Where can the language/ **word choice** be more specific and precise?
10. Do you see errors in grammar or punctuation? Which errors make the paper more difficult to **understand**?