

Peer review exercise, PPT 1, second paper

INTRODUCTION

In this exercise, you will give feedback on the drafts of several of your peers, and each of them will also give you feedback on your draft. In particular, you will work in the following groups:

Section 2

1. Abby, Dawn, Polly, Harshil
2. Don, Lindy, Salome, Matthew
3. Shanna, Yongsong, Ishmam
4. Ho Ning, Yue, Karolina
5. Luis, Nancy, Ben

Section 9

6. Kat, Mitchell, Silky, Yan
7. Kai Lin, Yihui, Ayan, Ziridi
8. Ziyang, Ajay, Arjav
9. Shehryar, Engie, Gary
10. Kristen, Young, Lauren

Find a block of at least two hours when all of you can meet in person. And bring enough hard copies of your paper for yourself and each of your partners. Then **each** person in the group should complete the peer review handout below for **each** of the other members of the group.

When you are done, simply go to Canvas and tell me how many minutes in total your group spent on the peer review exercise. (You should spend at least 30 minutes per person – so at least 90-120 minutes in total – and please do try to spend roughly an equal amount of time on each paper.) You do not need to submit the feedback itself. When you are scheduling your peer review sessions, remember to leave some extra time before the deadline to submit this homework to Canvas!

DETAILS

Read your partner's paper from beginning to end. **Take your time and read very carefully.** For the moment, do not worry about commenting on the paper.

Next, write notes on your partner's paper in response to each of the questions below. You will give these notes to your partner at the end of the exercise, so be as specific and helpful as possible.

1. *Introduction.* Go back to the beginning of the paper. Read the introduction again and write down your answers to the following questions:
 - (a) The paper prompt should not be included. Instead, the introduction should give the reader all of the information that she needs to understand what will happen in the paper. Has this been done?

- (b) The thesis statement should include at least three “that”-clauses: one to state the conclusion of the thinker’s argument, one to state the author’s objection, and one to state a possible reply from the thinker. Has your partner done this?

For your reference, here is the form of one possible excellent thesis statement: “In this paper, I will examine [thinker]’s argument that [claim]. In particular, after explaining why this argument is initially plausible, I will show that this argument faces the powerful objection that [concise summary of objection]. However, I will also suggest that [thinker] might reply to this objection by saying that [concise summary of reply].”

2. *Argument summary.* Now read the second paragraph of the paper, which should summarize the argument under discussion. Write down your answers to the following questions.

- (a) The premises and conclusion should be given in a numbered list, but without a diagram. Has this been done? (See the sample paper for an example.)
(b) The argument form should be correctly identified by name. Has this been done?
(c) Most importantly, the statement of the argument should match a good argument form *precisely, word for word*. Has this been done? (Take special care to ensure that your partner is not using a bad conditional argument.)

3. *Structure of later body paragraphs.* Your partner should then spend *at least one full paragraph* on each of the following tasks, *in this order*:

- (a) Explaining what the conclusion means (but *not* why it is plausible).
(b) For *each* premise, explaining what that premise means and why it is plausible.
(c) Identifying and explaining *one, and only one*, strong objection to the argument, making sure to state which claim or inference it targets.
(d) Identifying and explaining *one, and only one*, strong reply to the argument, making sure to explain how it engages with the objection.
(e) Concluding with a summary of the paper from a different perspective – one that the reader can appreciate only now that she has read the rest of the paper.

Has your partner spent a full paragraph on each of these tasks, in the proper order?

4. *Interpersonal evidence.* Review the body paragraphs again. Your partner should support each premise, objection, and reply with *interpersonal evidence* – with claims that just about anyone can verify. Moreover, this evidence should genuinely support the claim in question. If possible, find 2 places where you think that this has not been done. It is all right to be unsure! Just indicate this to your partner.

5. *Signposts.* The paper should include *many* signposts – as a default, there should be at least one signpost for every two sentences. Even the first sentence of a paragraph should usually begin with a signpost to indicate how that paragraph relates to the rest of the paper. If possible, find 2 places where signposts should be added.

Congratulations – you have now finished making notes on your partner’s draft! Now carefully explain your notes to your partner, and also give these notes to your partner. Once that is done, it is time for you to revise your own paper in light of the feedback that you have received. Keep two things in mind during this process.

First, remember that *your paper is entirely your own responsibility*. Keep an open mind when your partner offers suggestions for improvement, but you are welcome to disagree with her advice! At this point, you know exactly what the criteria for an excellent paper are, and you should make your own judgments about how well your paper meets them.

Second, *make your paper amazing*. After completing the homework exercises, practicing your skills in seminar, and receiving feedback from your peers, you have all the tools that you need to create something truly exceptional. Do so – not for the sake of a grade, but for the sake of your own learning!

Now, before you forget, **go to Canvas** and tell me how many minutes, in total, your group spent on this peer review exercise.