

## Peer Review Guidelines for Working Drafts

Writing is a highly social process. You use words from a language created by others who came before you, you write for an intended audience, and readers interpret your words through their own beliefs and values—which are influenced by the social milieu in which the readers are embedded. In another respect, the writing process *should be* a social process. Just like science may benefit from productive social interaction (e.g., collaboration, peer-review), so might your writing. Please use this set of guidelines to peer-edit another author's working draft.

1. Your first task is to copy-edit the draft. Mark up your copy to show the author where corrections or improvements can be made with reference to:

- A. spelling
- B. grammar
- C. punctuation
- D. effectiveness and clarity of sentence structure
- E. effectiveness and clarity of paragraph structure/organization
- F. transitions between paragraphs and sections
- G. citation of others' work

***Pay particular attention to sentence-level revision, with a focus on helping the author write succinct, clear sentences with little lard.***

***Always ask: what is this sentence trying to say? how can it be said more effectively?***

2. Is the opening paragraph effective in arousing curiosity and engagement? If not, how could it be improved?

3. Is the thesis or main argument clearly and prominently stated? How easy or difficult is it to identify the author's main argument?

4. In your own words, what is the author's main argument? Be as specific as possible.

5. Is the thesis in its present form worth defending, or does it seem too obvious or too implausible? Explain.

6. How precise and clear is this argument throughout the paper?

