Peer Review Guidelines: The First Draft
Summary-Response Essay

Writer’s Name:

Reviewer’s Name:

As you review the work of another student, actively take notes on the paper as you read it! Read the paper through once, and then read it a second time. Ask yourself these questions as you read through the paper a second time:

1. Is the first paragraph (introduction) in the form of a concise summary of the original article? Is the writer’s thesis the last sentence or two of the introduction?

2. What is the main idea (thesis)?

3. What are the supportive ideas the writer uses to develop his/her main idea? Are these ideas clearly expressed?

4. Are ideas in the paper adequately supported by evidence, that is, quotes and paraphrasing, illustrative examples, verifiable facts, reliable authorities, personal experience, and most important of all, clear, logical thinking? In particular, are quotes and paraphrasing used to emphasize the writer’s points and separate his/her thinking from the author’s?

5. What about the body paragraphs—is each devoted to developing one main idea? Does each have a topic sentence that governs the paragraph?

6. Does the conclusion wrap the paper up and contain at least one sentence or idea that reflects back to the thesis statement?

Once you have asked yourself these questions as you read through the paper a second time, share your findings with the writer. Now is the time for the writer to take notes on what the reviewer found!