Peer Review Guidelines: The First Draft

Writer’s Name:

Reviewer’s Name:

Paper Title & Date:

As you review the work of another student, actively take notes on the paper as you read it! First, carefully look over the writer’s idea map. Locate the thesis statement and the major supportive ideas. The writer may also have listed the evidence she or he plans to use. Then read the paper through once, just to get an idea of how the writer has developed his or her ideas. Then read it through a second time. Ask yourself these questions as you read through the paper a second time:

1. What is the **thesis statement**? Underline the thesis statement

   Where is it located?

2. Regarding the **body paragraphs**, is each devoted to developing one main supportive idea that is clearly linked to the thesis?

3. Is each body paragraph introduced by a **topic sentence**, that is, a sentence that states what is going to be discussed in the paragraph?

4. What are the **supportive ideas** the writer uses to develop his/her main idea? Are these ideas clearly expressed? Refer back to the writer’s idea map if you need to do so. Remember that many or all of these major supportive ideas will be expressed as topic sentences, but not all topic sentences will be major supportive ideas. This is because sometimes writers will devote two or more paragraphs developing one major supportive idea. Underline the major supportive ideas on the writer’s paper.

5. Are ideas in the paper adequately supported by **evidence**, that is, verifiable facts, reliable authorities, illustrative examples, personal experience, and most important of all, clear, logical thinking?

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