

Peer Review Tool: Divide & Conquer

For this peer review session, students should organize themselves into triads. They should come to class with one copy of their paper. To begin, each student passes his or her paper to a different group member, who will be Reviewer #1.

Reviewer #1 will read the paper through completely without marking it, and then respond to the following questions on a separate sheet of paper:

1. Did the writer fulfill all of the requirements outlined in the assignment guidelines? If there was a specific writing prompt, was it directly and clearly addressed? If not, what is missing?
2. Write down what you perceive as the writer's argument and evaluate it. Is it arguable? Original? Specific? If not, how would you adjust it?
3. Go back and look at the evidence used in the paper. Is it sufficient? If not, what type of additional evidence would improve the paper and where should the writer look to locate it?

Once Reviewer #1 has completed the questions above, the paper should be passed to the other group member who did not author it.

Reviewer #2 will now read through the paper completely without marking it, and then respond to the following questions on a separate sheet of paper:

1. Does the writer include sufficient analysis of the evidence? Identify two places in the paper where analysis is lacking and pose a question/comment to steer the writer toward better analysis. Look particularly at how the writer has integrated and analyzed direct quotes.
2. Locate and write down any sentences in the essay that integrate a counterargument. Does the writer acknowledge the opposition and then reassert his or her own position? Does the counterargument strengthen the writer's position or seem to directly contradict it? Explain.
3. Look at the writer's in-text citations. Do any sentences need to be cited that aren't or vice versa? Has the writer conformed to the citation style commonly used in the discipline? Are full references included for all sources cited in text and vice versa?

Once finished, return the papers to their authors with the comment sheets. Writers should look at the reviewers' responses and ask them for clarification of feedback as necessary.

Note: Each student will be Reviewer #1 for the first paper they receive and Reviewer #2 for the second. This will allow students to focus on evaluating three different areas for each paper.