

## PEER REVIEW FOR PAPER #1

For Dr. Harold William Halbert's Literature Courses  
halhalbert.com

Your Name:

Name of Person Who Wrote the Paper Being Reviewed:

Date:

Instructions: Please read your partner's paper and complete this worksheet.

If you are doing this in a face-to-face course meeting, please read and mark the paper, noting the following:

- Positive comments (such as "good evidence," "strong transition," "excellent quotation/point," strong analysis of evidence," "Ha!" and the like)
- Issues to be addressed (like grammar errors or typos, weak transitions, lack of focus in a paragraph, missing evidence, weak or non-existent analysis of evidence, quote mechanics, MLA formatting issues, etc.)

If you are reading the paper online because we are not having class, DO NOT simply fix errors. Instead, read the paper in MS Word and click on the REVIEW tab. Use the "new comment" option to type out questions or observations. When you are done, copy and paste this document to the end of your edited document and then SAVE AS, renaming the file "[original\_file\_name]\_Comments.docx" and then post it as a reply to the original post with the new MS Word file as an attachment.

For face-to-face and online responses, complete the worksheet below:

Part 1: Outline the Paper: complete the outline below about the paper you just read. If you cannot identify the asked for information, say "not clear" or "not in paragraph."

### 1. Introduction

- a. Context for argument (what issue/question/controversy is being discussed?)
- b. Main thesis/claim/argument/interpretation of the essay (what does the author want you to believe about the subject)
- c. What author/texts are being used in the essay (are these listed in the introduction?)
- d. What is the plan of development for the paper? (Are the 4 or more major points in the paper listed in the introduction? If so, what are they?)
- e. Springboard statement (how does the writer close the introduction to bring it back to the overall thesis instead of the final individual major point?)

2. Body Paragraph (create as many entries as you need to match the number of body paragraphs in the paper)
  - a. Does the first line show a clear transition? What is it? Can it be improved?
  - b. What is the subject of the paragraph?
  - c. What claim is being made in the paragraph? How does this claim support the paper's overall thesis?
  - d. What is the key evidence in the paragraph? Is more needed?
  - e. Is there a conclusion to the paragraph that doesn't start a new point discussed in the paragraph?
3. Conclusion
  - a. Is there a strong transition? Does it successfully avoid stating "in conclusion," which Dr. Halbert wants students to avoid?
  - b. Does it restate the major points?
  - c. How does it expand the thesis to a broader point?

## Part 2: Discuss the Paper Format

The Purdue OWL has a useful section on MLA papers, both in terms of citations and paper format. Students should visit it to see a sample paper. In the meantime, check to verify if the paper meets these formatting requirements by putting "yes" or "no" next to each item to indicate if the writer followed format.

- Has page numbers with last name on every page
- The Margins are 1" top, bottom, left, right.
- Use Times New Roman 12pt font
- The works cited page starts at the top of a new page.
- Title is centered, properly capitalized, and NOT underlined, bolded, quoted, italicized or enlarged.
- Each item on the works cited page uses a hanging indent.
- Information block has proper information and has only single-spaced blank lines between each item.
- Works cited entries are arranged alphabetically and NOT numbered.
- Spacing above and below title is one single-spaced blank line only each.
- Works Cited Page has a page number.
- There are no extra gaps between paragraphs.
- The Works Cited title is centered, properly capitalized, and NOT underlined, bolded, quoted, italicized or enlarged.

Part 3: Commentary. Write a paragraph-long note that outlines the major strengths of the paper and what changes should be made to the content and organization to improve it.