

Peer Critique Groups for Essay 2: Persuasion Essay on Thoreau Topics

Date: _____
 Author: _____

Essay Title: _____
 Reader: _____

Directions:

Do not get bogged down in correcting grammar and punctuation. Please address all the criteria below for your writing group member's draft and return that draft to the writer. Budget your time so that you are able to cover all these areas in writing. Verbally discuss only what you think are the most pressing concerns below. Just tell the writer that s/he has serious grammar or punctuation problems and needs to edit very carefully on the final draft before submitting it.

ESSAY STRUCTURE CHECKLIST (To earn a passing grade, you must achieve the first 8 criteria)	YES	NO
1. The introductory ¶ establishes the purpose of the essay by using at least 3-4 sentences that hook the reader.		
2. The writer briefly summarizes (in a sentence) and correctly cites the target essay this essay discusses. (Ex: "Civil Disobedience" or "Life without Principle")		
3. The thesis is clearly and precisely stated in the last sentence of the introductory ¶.		
4. The thesis identifies the injustice worth protesting or takes a position on Thoreau's work ethic.		
5. Each main body ¶ begins with a topic sentence that guides the paragraph.		
6. All main body ¶s are unified (don't stray from the topic sentence) and develop only one criterion.		
7. Each main body ¶ has at least 3-4 sentences of specific, concrete development.		
8. For Topic 1: Does the writer offer any solutions? (None should be present, except to say that the injustice should be stopped.)		
9. For Topic 1: The writer offers methods to protest the injustice and bring about a change.		
10. The writer needs to edit carefully for grammar and spelling in the next draft.		
11. The parenthetical notations have no errors whatsoever.		
12. The Works Cited page uses correct MLA format (hanging ¶s, alphabetized, double-spaced, etc.)		
13. The essay needs work in the area of punctuation .		

14. Evaluate whether the thesis is **forceful** and **assertive**. Explain why/why not.
15. List the main body ¶ numbers that need **more supporting evidence**. (Read closely; be critical here.)
16. Describe how persuasive or convincing the essay is. Would it be better to arrange the paragraphs in **ascending order of importance** or **descending order of importance**? Why/ why not?
17. Which passage(s) (specify ¶s) are most clear to you? Explain why.
18. Identify paragraphs are particularly strong. What paragraphs do you recommend deleting because they are especially weak?
19. What other questions and/or comments do you have for this writer?
20. In my opinion, the following areas can be strengthened (check all that apply and specifically mark them on the essay draft; briefly explain):
- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ___ topic sentences | ___ ¶ coherency and smoothness | |
| ___ ¶ transitions | ___ wordiness | ___ word choice/specificity |
21. On a scale of 1 - 6, rate the content of this draft. (Be honest, and don't give the writer false expectations!)
- | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| (very difficult to follow;
lacks clear reasoning;
needs more examples) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | (clear organization;
strong development of
ideas; uses forceful, direct prose) |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|