

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thesis and Topic Sentences**

1. In what way does the introduction draw you in as a reader and narrow the topic? How might the writer improve the introduction?
2. Underline the thesis statement in the paper. Is the thesis factual or obvious? If so, explain why.
3. Why is the thesis important? Is this your opinion or does the introduction tell you why?
4. Underline the topic sentence of each body paragraph in the paper. Do all the topic sentences support and connect to the thesis? How could they better tie back to the thesis?
5. Topic sentences should be ordered such that they give the argument in a logical progression. What do you find either appealing or problematic about their ordering and the connections among them?

**Evidence**

1. Does each topic have supporting evidence? If not, where is it lacking?
2. Is each piece of evidence contextualized, interpreted, explained, and/or otherwise explicitly connected to the topic? If not, identify which pieces are lacking.

3. Which piece of evidence is most compelling? Why?

4. Which piece of evidence is least compelling? Why?

### General Writing

1. What is the best sentence of the paper in your opinion? (Put parentheses around it and put a star next to it, like this sentence.) ★  
Why is it such a good sentence?

2. Which sentence in the paper is most in need of revision? [Put square brackets around it and a triangle next to it, like this sentence.] △  
Suggest to the writer what the difficulty might be for the reader.

3. What should the writer pay special attention to regarding grammar, punctuation, spelling, and/or style? (E.g., broad reference, passive voice, “to be” verbs, nominalization, strings of prepositional phrases, etc.)

4. Place a circle between the two paragraphs you feel have the best transitional language. What makes this transition so good?

5. Place a square between the two paragraphs whose transition seems least natural or smooth. How might the writer improve the transition?

6. Does the concluding paragraph do more than restate the introduction? That is, does the last paragraph recontextualize the paper, moving from specific details and concerns to their larger, more general implications?