

INSTRUCTIONS for in-class peer response. Fill in the response form below, following these guidelines. DO NOT provide fixes or advice. You are the audience, NOT the editor or critic.

**1. Listen** to peer read her/his draft aloud, and follow along on your own copy. Focus on the meaning and the argument: What is the claim, and how is it supported? How does the writer help you to understand what she's saying and to believe it? What's coming through clearly, and which spots are confusing or unclear to you as a practice reader?

#### MARK THE TEXT

**2. Point to clear and confusing spots:** Draw a wavy underline under those unclear spots and draw a straight underline under those that seem strongest. (If you're working electronically, highlight confusing spots in yellow and simply bold or underline the clear spots.)

**3. Number at least four unclear spots** where you need more help to understand and believe what the writer has written. Circle errors that jump out at you, but don't get distracted by them.

**4. Explain your confusions or questions for the writer.** In your response form (or on a separate page), write down exactly why you felt confused at each spot. DO NOT provide fixes or advice. You are the audience, NOT the editor or critic.

Is there a jump in topic? A confusing phrase or sentence? A confusing sequence of information? An unsupported claim? Tell the writer what is coming across and why you are puzzled, so s/he can zero in on the rough spots.

Writers: when a peer reader is confused, you MUST make a change. Do not just clear it up in conversation and be done with it. Change your text.

#### SUMMARIZE AND QUESTION

**5. Summarize:** After you read, write a brief summary of the argument: what is the main point, and how are they backing it up? Keep it under four sentences.

**6. Pose a question** that helps the writer take his thinking further. What are you curious about? "I wonder what you think about \_\_\_\_\_."

**7. Assignment:** Is there anything you think this writer should do more of in order to meet the assignment?

PEER RESPONSE FOR \_\_\_\_\_, FROM \_\_\_\_\_

Points of confusion: Which spots did you number in the margins? Explain why you got a bit confused or wanted to know more at those spots. Do not offer fixes! You are a practice reader or audience – not an editor.

1.

2.

3.

4.

Summary of the argument (restate main point and supporting points in four sentences or fewer):

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Your question for the writer: pose a question that helps the writer move her thinking forward.

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Is there anything this writer should do to fulfill the assignment?

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