

Guidelines for helping students evaluate papers

1. What do you like about this paper?
2. What do you think is the purpose of the paper? To instruct? To entertain? Do you think it accomplishes that purpose?
3. Who seems to be the audience for the paper? How can you tell? Do you think the writer keeps the audience in mind throughout the paper?
4. What commitment does the writer make to the audience? What expectations does the opening paragraph raise?
5. Does the writer carry out the commitment? Does he or she meet the expectations raised in the audience? Does the paper answer all the questions it raises in the audience's mind?
6. Does the writer adequately support, explain, or illustrate the assertions or claims that he or she makes? What parts of the paper need further development?
7. Do you understand everything the writer says? What points, if any, are unclear? Did you have to reread some parts of the paper to grasp the ideas?
8. Could the writer have expressed the ideas in the paper more economically? Where could the paper be cut?
9. Does the paper have unity? Are there places where the writer should add transitions or clearer signals for the reader?
10. Has the writer made good word choices? Has he or she used concrete and vigorous language?
11. Are sentences constructed so that the reader can follow them easily? Can you suggest improvements?
12. Are there distracting mistakes in usage, spelling, or punctuation?
13. Did you find the paper interesting? Why or why not? Did it hold your attention?