

Revision Sheet

Dealing with textual evidence:

- 1) What unnecessary summary could the author cut? What weak analysis could be cut?
- 2) What quoted evidence could the author could analyze more fully?
- 3) What quoted evidence is not relevant to the author's argument and should be cut or trimmed?
- 4) Where could the author add a quote – one that is suggestive or relevant and would lead to sharper analysis?
- 5) What are the strongest moments of analysis in the paper, and how could the author pursue and expand upon them more fully?

Improving the argument:

- 6) Where is the author's argument is too simplistic? What counterexamples could complicate it? What ideas could nuance it?
- 7) Where could the author pursue the broader implications of the argument?
- 8) Where does the author repeat what has come before?
- 9) Where does the author stray off topic or fail to maintain a focused argument?

Dealing with sources:

- 10) Where does the author paraphrase a scholarly source without engaging in an original analysis?
- 11) Where does the author rely too heavily on outside sources, or quote them excessively?
- 12) Where could the author use a better/more relevant outside source?

Organization and style:

- 13) Which paragraphs do not fit logically within the overall paper?
- 14) Where does the author use confusing, unnecessarily complex, or vague language?
- 15) Is the opening paragraph vague, abstract, or unhelpful? Should it be cut?
- 16) Does the author have a nuanced, convincing thesis statement? How could the thesis be improved?
- 17) Does the author separate elements of a pairing into distinct sections? How could the author integrate the pairings throughout the paper?

Grammar and citation:

- 18) Where do you see inadequate proofreading, misquoting lines, failing to indicate line breaks, and faulty syntax, punctuation and mechanics?

These questions are intended both for peer review and for personal revision. Peer review helps, but it is only a starting point: start revising your own paper immediately.

Any time you say "this looks good," you are letting down your partners. They don't need your opinion of the paper: they need concrete suggestions about how to improve it. In addition to marking up papers, peer reviewers should write out responses to the 4-5 most pressing questions on this list. We invariably run out of time on peer review day: exchange email addresses so that you can be in touch with your partners.