

Author: \_\_\_\_\_ Peer Editor: \_\_\_\_\_

### 60 Minutes Essay Peer Editing

**Directions:** First, read the essay and underline or circle any spelling errors, grammar mistakes or problems with sentence structure. Feel free to use the following abbreviations:

Colloq. = colloquial (too informal)  
Awk. = awkward

VT = verb tense is incorrect  
WC = incorrect word choice

Then, please complete the following by circling “yes” or “no”:

#### Introductory Paragraph:

|   |     |    |
|---|-----|----|
| Does the paper have a title? (It should be interesting!)  | Yes | No |
| Are the first 1- 2 sentences of the introduction catchy?  | Yes | No |
| Does the introduction set the stage for the topic?  | Yes | No |
| Is the thesis or purpose of the paper clearly stated? (reasonably narrow, supportable, strongly stated)       | Yes | No |
| Is the thesis statement located in the first paragraph?   | Yes | No |
| Is the thesis stated in such a way as to convince the reader of the importance of their cause? (with passion) | Yes | No |

#### Content:

|   |     |    |
|---|-----|----|
| Does the paper use examples and specific details to support the thesis?   | Yes | No |
| Does each paragraph <i>and</i> the paper as a whole support the initial thesis?   | Yes | No |
| Did the assertions this person made in his/her essay seem to make sense, based on what you know about the author’s topic? | Yes | No |
| Are the thesis and argument well-developed?   | Yes | No |
| Does the paper suggest several concrete solutions to the problem that the author has identified?                          | Yes | No |
| Is the paper written with passion?  | Yes | No |

#### Supporting Evidence:

|   |     |    |
|---|-----|----|
| Does each paragraph contain at least one quote, statistic, example, or other piece of factual evidence? (Ideally, they should contain more than one!) | Yes | No |
| Is it smoothly introduced and integrated into the paper?  | Yes | No |
| Is the supporting evidence explained, restated, and/or tied back to the topic for clarity?  | Yes | No |
| Does each paragraph close with a summary that links it back to the larger issues being discussed in the paper?  | Yes | No |
| Does the paper incorporate at least one graphic (cartoon, image, etc.)?   | Yes | No |

**Concluding Paragraph:**

|  |     |    |
|--|-----|----|
| Does the paper suggest several <i>concrete solutions</i> to the problem that the author has identified?        | Yes | No |
| Does it sum up the paper in a concise manner?  | Yes | No |
| Does it include a good assessment of the “so what?” question?  | Yes | No |
| Does it provide a sense of why their issue is important and/or how it bears on the future (i.e. significance)? | Yes | No |

**Writing Mechanics and Communication of Ideas:**

|   |     |    |
|---|-----|----|
| Does each body paragraph begin with a topic sentence?   | Yes | No |
| Do the body paragraphs clearly support the topic sentences?                                       | Yes | No |
| Are there transitions between ideas and/or supporting details, as well as between paragraphs?     | Yes | No |
| Is it logically organized?  | Yes | No |
| Is it well-edited (i.e. checked for spelling, grammar, punctuation, subject/verb agreement, etc)? | Yes | No |
| Is it written clearly and concisely?  | Yes | No |

***Please check off that you have met the following requirements:***

\_\_\_\_\_ The paper is NO LESS than 2 full pages in length & NO MORE than 3 pages in length.

\_\_\_\_\_ The paper is typed, double-spaced, in 12-point font.

\_\_\_\_\_ The paper has either footnotes or endnotes

\_\_\_\_\_ The paper incorporates *at least one* image/graphic/cartoon

\_\_\_\_\_ The paper is spell checked and proofread.

\_\_\_\_\_ The paper includes a bibliography.

**Finally...**

What are the strengths of the paper?

What is your favorite part of the paper?

**What's next?** Don't be offended if your paper has been completely marked up. The goal here is to make you a better writer and to provide you with a fresh set of eyes for your paper. It is often difficult to edit your own paper as you are usually too close to it to objectively edit. You *do not* have to make all of the changes suggested by your partner. Take into consideration all of their comments, and then decide which one you agree with. Fix all of the grammatical and structural mistakes right away, and then tackle the larger conceptual problems.