

Writer's Name: _____

Reader's Name: _____

Worksheet for Analytical Papers

To the Reader: After reading your Workshop Partner's paper, respond to the items below. Use the back of the sheets or additional paper if you need extra room for your comments. Also feel free to write directly on the paper itself. Once you are finished with this Worksheet, return it to your partner and discuss it with her/him.

To the Writer: With the final version of your paper that you turn in next week, attach this handout, the draft of the paper you turned in for this workshop, and any additional written comments from your reader.

What are the 2 greatest strengths of the paper?

1.

2.

What 2 areas of the paper could benefit most from improvement?

1.

2.

Beginning

Apply Harvey's ideas from Chapter 8 about introductions to the paper. Does the writer include an effective analytical thesis? Does the thesis clearly communicate the paper's main idea? Is the thesis more than a title, a statement of fact, or an announcement of the subject? Is the writer's thesis arguable or debatable? Does it add to your understanding of the work(s) discussed? Does it present a point of view that justifies defense through examples? Does the introduction identify the facts and background of the topic necessary to understand the context for its thesis statement? Do all portions of the introduction add to an understanding of the thesis, the writer's approach, or the subject matter? Is there any unnecessary material included in the introduction? In what ways, if any, might the focus of the paper be strengthened in the introduction to improve its success?

Paragraphs

Apply Harvey's ideas from Chapter 7 about paragraph development to the paper. Are the writer's arguments logically constructed? Does the writer follow the rules for structuring an argument that Weston describes in *A Rulebook for Arguments*? Has the writer provided the readers with enough or too much background information? Is any important material missing that might enhance the progression of the paper's argument? In what ways, if any, might the paper's structure and organization be improved?

Flow

Apply Harvey's ideas from Chapter 3 about writing flow to the paper. Does the writing present a confident tone? Has the writer avoided too many uses of pedantic language or highly elevated word choice? Does the writing "flow" well throughout? Which parts of the paper, if any, could be most improved to strengthen the writing style?

Concision

Apply Harvey's ideas from Chapter 1 about writing concisely to the new writing sample. Where is the writer's usage wordy or repetitive? Does the paper include any extraneous or unnecessary information or sections that slow down the progression of the argument?

Clarity

Apply Harvey's ideas from Chapter 2 about clarity of expression to the paper. Do any parts require qualifying statements to avoid inaccurate interpretations? Are points presented clearly and organized logically? Is the paper's argument appropriate and clear, according to the rules set out by Weston in *A Rulebook for Arguments*?

Gracefulness

Apply Harvey's ideas from Chapter 5 about gracefulness of style to the paper. How can ideas be expressed more gracefully and powerfully?

Evidence and Examples

Has the writer identified, summarized, and refuted opposing arguments, where these might be important? Does the writer appropriately support assertions with evidence from the text(s)? Has the writer avoided assumptions that hinder the progression of the analysis? Has the writer made any of the argumentation errors described in Weston's *A Rulebook for Arguments*? How effectively has the writer presented examples from the text(s) to support the paper's argument? What is the strongest example used in the paper? What is the weakest example? How, if at all, might the writer improve the use of examples in the article?

Punctuation and Documentation

Apply Harvey's punctuation rules from Chapter 4 to the paper. Has the writer followed appropriate MLA documentation style in the in-text citations as well as the bibliography?

Audience

Does the writer explain keep the intended audience (i.e., students, scholars and general readers with a strong, but maybe not professional, knowledge of the topic) in mind throughout the paper? Has the writer considered the likely opinions, attitudes, and values of the intended audience? In what ways, if any, might the attention to the audience be strengthened in this paper?

Ending

Does the paper possess a strong, effective conclusion? How might the introduction or conclusion be improved to be more appealing and interesting to the reader?