

Critique Sheet

1. Can you tell what the writer's main contention/point/thesis is? Is it apparent at the beginning, or do the writer build to it gradually?

2. Does the writer use personal experience? Does that experience mesh with, and support the overall thesis? Could it be used more effectively? How?

3. Does the writer offer other kinds of evidence (newspaper articles, scholarly articles, statistics, studies, etc.)? Is the evidence offered relevant and compelling? Is more of this kind of evidence needed? Where? And of what kind?

4. Do you find the writers' main point to be a compelling one? Do you disagree with it? Whether or not you agree with it, what's the strongest argument you can think of that would work against it?

5. Identify the strongest sentence in the paper, and circle it. What makes it strong? Identify the least effective sentence, and circle it. Why does it seem so?

Once you've completed the above, exchange your critiques with your writing partner.