

**INTRODUCTION TO ACADEMIC WRITING: PEER REVIEW
MULTIGENRE PORTFOLIO PROJECT**

Directions:

1. Read your partner's paper slowly without making any marks, corrections, or comments.
2. After reading, respond to the following questions. If your partner has written more than one alternative genre piece, use a piece of notebook paper to answer these same questions about the second piece of writing:
 - Identify the genre of this piece of writing:
 - What do you know about this genre? What are your expectations about form, content, style, audience, tone, etc. for this genre?
 - Has the writer met those expectations? If so, how? If not, does their use of the genre still work? If so, how? If not, what might they need to do to fulfill the expectations of the genre?
 - Why do you think your partner chose this genre? Does the content of this piece of writing fit well with the genre? Why or why not?
3. Reread your partner's writing. Make the following notes *on the draft*:
 - ❖ Note sentences, phrases, word choice, and other aspects of the writing that help you connect with the writer's message. Identify at least three of these points in the writing, and explain in the margins of the paper *why* it speaks to you.
 - For example, you can identify similarities in your experience, ideas the writer's phrasing conjured up for you, or turns of phrase that are particularly moving. You might write, "I also wrote about writer's block! I get mine more with creative writing than academic writing, though. The way you describe it as 'frozen frenzy' really reminds me of my own experience sitting at my desk panicking!"
 - ❖ Ask at least three follow-up questions about meaning in the margins of the paper.
 - For example, you might point out where a word or sentence is unclear and ask a question to help the writer make it more coherent, such as "Do you mean you began to participate in Poetry Slams in fourth grade, or that's when you first became interested in them but were just an observer? Where did you participate/observe?"
 - ❖ Point out at least three *significant* suggestions about organization, content, and/or meaningful aspects of sentence structure. Remember that it can help give a fuller picture of your response to writing if you incorporate aspects of what worked well into your constructive criticism.
 - For example, you could identify the need for a transition between two main ideas in a dialogue, explaining why you think a transition is needed: "I really like how you move from your personal

experience with dyslexia to the broader issue of reading and writing instruction for students with various disabilities. When I was reading this, though, I was surprised to see you move to education policy right after sharing your story, and think it would help create a smoother transition if you include a sentence or two about how your experience relates to these broader issues.”

- ❖ Lastly, note smaller issues of grammar, word choice, style, tone, etc. on the paper. Circle errors you identify and suggest a correction.
 - For example, if your partner has relied a single word too many times throughout the paper, you might comment, “I notice that you use the verb ‘express’ in many sentences when explaining your approach to writing. You might want to use a thesaurus to find synonyms for this word to avoid repetition and create variety. I can think of a few off the top of my head, such as ‘communicate,’ ‘articulate,’ or ‘voice.’”
- ❖ Does the writer use outside sources in this piece of writing? If so, check that they introduce and explain quotes, paraphrase where needed, and properly cite sources. Make suggestions in the margins where needed.

4. Respond to the following questions:

- How has the writer incorporated writing, language, and/or literacy into their alternative genre piece? Does this writing focus on those subjects enough? If not, what suggestions do you have for them to make it more focused on those topics?
- How has this writer used creativity to develop a piece of writing in an alternative genre about writing, language, and/or literacy? What makes this writing original and engaging?
- While creativity is important, it’s also necessary to make sure that our writing is polished and complete. What suggestions do you have for the writer to make this a complete, finished piece?
- Look at the rubric we’ve developed for this assignment. How does this piece of writing meet these criteria? Where is the writing strongest? Where is it most in need of improvement?
- What other suggestions, comments, or thoughts do you have for the writer about this writing or for the other pieces of writing they’ll create for this project?