PEER REVIEW
These guidelines are to help the reviewer critically evaluate the author’s writing. When the reviewer is asked to provide feedback or comment on the author’s work, the reviewer should first assess the quality of the writing, according to the intellectual standards, and then offer a suggestion on how to the author may improve his or her writing.

INTELLECTUAL STANDARDS: clarity, accuracy, precision, relevance, depth, breadth, logicality, fairness

KEY QUESTION/PROBLEM/ISSUE: Indicate and label where the author identifies the core issue.
  o Provide feedback about the author’s clarity and accuracy in identifying the core issue.
  o Provide feedback about whether the author has provided enough information to completely (breadth) and deeply (depth) convey the significance of the core issue.
  o Provide feedback about whether the author has included any information that is irrelevant.

PURPOSE: Indicate and label where the author states or indicates the purpose of the essay.
  o Provide feedback about the author’s stated purpose of the essay. Comment on whether the purpose is clear and logically connected to the core issue.
  o If the author does not state or indicate a purpose, note where it should be stated.

THESIS/ARGUMENT: Identify the author’s core argument. Write the author’s core argument under “Reviewer’s Notes and Comments.” Indicate and label it on the author’s essay.
  o Provide feedback about whether the author’s argument is clear and easily understood.
  o Comment on whether the author has provided deep, rather than superficial, argument. In other words, assess whether it a solid argument or is it a weak argument.
  o Provide feedback about the breadth of the argument: comment on whether the author has addressed all the major points or if there is a point or core issue that he or she is neglecting.
  o During the verbal feedback portion of class, determine whether the reviewer accurately identified and understood the author’s argument. If there is a discrepancy, provide suggestions on how the author may more accurately convey his or her argument.

CONCEPTS: Indicate and label where the author identifies and defines important concepts in the essay.
  o Note whether the author has included all the important concepts (breadth) that are central to the argument. Also note whether he or she includes irrelevant concepts that are not logically connected to the core argument.
  o Provide feedback about the accuracy of the author’s definition and explanation of these concepts.
  o Comment on whether the author uses the concepts accurately. Note where he or she uses any concepts inaccurately.
INFORMATION: Assess whether the author uses quality information. Address this under “Reviewer’s Notes and Comments.” Indicate and label instances where the author is using quality information.

- Provide feedback about the quality of the information the author uses to support his or her argument. Note whether the information is based in empirical evidence (fairness) as well as individual experiences or whether it is solely based on his or her individual experiences.
- Comment on whether the information used is relevant to the argument and logically organized.
- Provide feedback about the depth and breadth of the information used. Note whether the author has enough information to deeply support his or her argument and whether the information covers the scope or range of the argument.
- Note any instances where the information used may be invalid or inaccurate.

INTERPRETATIONS/INFERENCES: Identify the author’s main conclusion(s). Briefly summarize the author’s main conclusions under “Reviewer’s Notes and Comments.” Indicate and label the author’s conclusions.

- Provide feedback about the clarity and logicality of the author’s conclusions. Note whether the
  - Comment on the depth of the author’s conclusions. Note whether the author used the information to come to deep and meaningful conclusions or if the conclusions are simple and superficial.
  - Provide feedback about the breadth of the author’s conclusions. Comment on whether the conclusions address the span of information addressed. In other words, note if the author failed to provide conclusions about a core issue or theme in his or her argument/information.

IMPLICATIONS/CONSEQUENCES: Indicate the main implications in the author identifies under “Reviewer’s Notes and Comments.” Indicate and label where the author notes the implications.

- Provide feedback about the clarity and logicality of the author’s conclusions. Note whether the
  - Comment on the depth of the author’s conclusions. Note whether the author used the information to come to deep and meaningful conclusions or if the conclusions are simple and superficial.
  - Provide feedback about the breadth of the author’s conclusions. Comment on whether the conclusions address the span of information addressed. In other words, note if the author failed to provide conclusions about a core issue or theme in his or her argument/information.

ORGANIZATION: Provide information about the organization of the essay.

- Note whether the organization is clear and logical.
- Comment on the author’s transitions and use of topic sentences.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT: Provide a general assessment under “Reviewer’s Notes and Comments.”

- Make a list of the three main things the author needs to address.