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Support Group

When I was first told peer reviews were a requirement for this class, I was far from enthused. I have always been an insecure writer. I love to write and see my thoughts spreading over the paper as they spill out of my mind, but I would only ever write for my eyes only. Knowing other people would be reading my papers and judging them caused anxiety to get the best of me. I also worried about my skills at critiquing others' papers. Their grade depended on me. What if I caused them to fail? When the first peer review day arrived, I went over every flaw of my paper in my mind. After I opened my computer and began to review my peer's paper, I felt the anxiety shedding off me one layer at a time. I quickly realized that I was causing myself an unnecessary amount of stress. Peer reviews were created for our benefit as students and writers. My peers are like my support team in the path to bettering myself as a writer and person. They always offered me kind and helpful criticism. I had no problem with returning the favor.


For my first peer review of the semester, I reviewed a peer's first composition. I soon realized that my peer was just as inexperienced as I was in terms of writing for this class. He was not a poor writer, but he did have room for improvement, as we all did. I instantly noticed that my peer had incorrectly done his MLA heading, so I explained how to properly write it. A minor detail that can make a great deal of difference is the location of a title. My peer had his title off center which threw off the entire composition. Because of the weight of a thesis in a paper, I made sure to inform him that his needed some improvement. For each paragraph I highlighted what I believed to be the topic sentence, so he would be aware of what the audience perceived was the topic of the paper. For each mark up that I had put on his paper, I tried to explain why I had found a fault with it, so he could better fix the issues with as little confusion as possible. I tried to be kind but a relatively harsh grader, as a professor would be. At the end of the paper, I wrote a short blurb on my thoughts of his paper and its effectiveness compared to the provided prompt.


Key


 - Unity

 -Praise

 - Presentation and Design

 -Coherence

 - Evidence

 -Audience Awareness