

Peer Review Questionnaire: Analytical Essay

Part 1: Introduction and Thesis

How could the opening lines of this paper be improved? Do they rely on cliché? Do they summarize too much of the plot, or, on the contrary, do they not give enough context to be comprehensible? Do any sentences or words read like unnecessary padding?

In your own words, what is this paper going to argue? Is this thesis surprising or original to you as a reader of this text? Does the thesis exhibit enough complexity to require 4-5 pages of development?

Do you have a sense from this paper's opening that it will engage with both the content and the form of the text at hand? If not, can you suggest some formal element or aspect of the story or poem that might be relevant to the topic?

Part 2: Structure and Body Paragraphs

In your own words or images, provide a quick breakdown of the organizational logic of this paper, i.e. what are its discrete parts and why are they presented in this order?

How do you find the paper's use of textual evidence? Is the author's own language (whether textual or visual) being cited in order to support the paper's overarching thesis? Is enough analysis taking place or are the quoted lines or cited scenes just assumed to speak for themselves?

Single out one particularly effective bit of close reading and explain what you like about it.

Single out an instance of analysis evidence that you believe needs work and explain what you believe it lacks.

What was the single strongest part of the paper's main body?

What was the least convincing aspect of the paper?

Are there clear and seamless transitions between the different parts of the paper?

Part 3: Conclusion

Does the conclusion do more than reword the introduction?

Does this paper end somewhere differently from where it started?

Does it leave the reader with something to think about?

Part 4: Suggestions

In order of descending importance, what are the top three suggestions that you would make to your partner as s/he revises this paper into a final draft?

1)

2)

3)