



## Peer Review Guidelines for Students

The goal of the peer review is to give effective feedback to your classmates about their work.

Below are a number of suggestions to help you in this process of completing a peer review of any assignment.

- Take the time to read the whole assignment. You may find it useful to take some notes for yourself as this will help with the comments you have to make.
- Be mindful of your tone when you write your comments – netiquette still applies.
- Your comments should be appropriate and constructive, even if they point to weaknesses in the assignment.
- Point out the strengths, as well as the weaknesses, of the assignment.
- Ask questions about the assignment (structure, claims, evidence, etc) that will help your classmate.
- Try to make sure all your comments are understandable and specific. Terms such as “unclear” and “vague” don’t really provide much help.
- Try not to overwhelm your peer with too many comments. Follow the guidance provided so you can address the necessary issues.
- You may offer suggestions but be careful not to let your own opinions bias your review. This is particularly important if you do not agree with your peer’s point of view.
- It’s always good practice to review your comments before passing them on to your peer.
- Avoid turning your peer's work into your own – that’s classed as plagiarism.
- If you are provided with a feedback form to fill out and you are unclear about anything, ask the tutor for clarification.
- Finally, make sure you can accomplish your peer review tasks (reading and making comments) well before any deadlines.

(Adapted from SERC - Pedagogy in Action (2018) Guidelines for Students - Peer Review. Available from <https://serc.carleton.edu/sp/library/peerreview/tips.html> [Accessed 05 August 2020])