Peer Review Workshops— Personal Narrative Essay

*Read these instructions completely before proceeding!*

**To review classmates’ papers:**

1. Open a group member’s file.

2. Click on the “Review” menu, then select “Track changes” (this works for the latest versions of Word). If you don’t have this option or you are using a different application, use the Comment feature or change the color of the font when you type your feedback.

3. At the beginning of the file type: “Reviewed by (Your Name).” Read through the essay, making constructive comments that occur to you as you read. Your changes should appear in a different color. Note: If you select something to be deleted but change your mind later, you might not be able go back and undo it. However, CTRL-Z will undo the most recent change you made to the document. You can also highlight some words and click on the “New Comment” icon to type a comment in the margin.

4. Comment on the following issues with as much detail as you can. You will not receive credit for simplistic “yes” or “no” answers. You can address these questions in your in-text comments or in a summary at the end of the paper.

Does the student effectively introduce his or her narrative? What can the student do to improve the introductory paragraph?

What is the main point to the narrative, and where do you find it? Could it use clarification?

Does the author directly and completely respond to the prompt?

How well does the author's "moment of awakening" reflect the significance Rich gives a personal Sputnik moment?

If the student includes references to Rich, are they incorporated effectively? (Note: if the term "personal Sputnik moment" is used, Rich must be cited.)

Are there particular points that need to be developed or clarified in the paper?

Does the author tell his or her story with sufficient supporting details, description, and examples? Where is more support or description needed?

Does the author use enough sensory detail, too little, or too much? In what ways does this detail help to convey the author’s experiences?

Does each paragraph appear to directly relate to the overall narrative?

Comment on the essay’s structure. Is it organized effectively? Why or why not? What could be improved?

Are there any missing pieces to the narrative? What else would you like to know about the author’s experiences?

At the end of the paper, write a short paragraph summarizing what the author did well and what could be improved in the revision. When finished, save your changes and upload the file to your group discussion board.

**Remember to save your feedback in Word or PDF format!**

5. To submit your feedback:

Click on “reply” to the author’s initial post, and then upload the file as explained above. You will not receive credit if your file is not posted as a REPLY.  
Full credit will be given for **substantial** feedback **in response to these guidelines**.

**Carefully review your classmates’ feedback before you finish revising your paper!**