

## Peer Critique Instructions

1. Read through the guidelines and the Design 1 assignment.

2. Get your review assignment from the Design 1 turn-in page.

Print out the manuscript so that you can write comments directly on the report.

3. Read it. Be a good colleague.

As you go, mark it with brief comments or corrections. Please do not correct each instance of the same type of error. Just point it out the first time. *Focus on improvements that would provide the biggest payoff.* Be explicit (of course, don't be mean – just state the point). (When you receive your critique *you must have a thick skin* – the point of the exercise is to *help you do better on the final draft*).

4. Prepare your written critique.

**Write a 1-2 page critique** for the authors. **Bring three copies with you to lab** (one for me and one for each author).

**Begin your review with a positive statement** before going into problems. A critique is mostly negative – that's just the nature of the beast. As scientists, we are most interested in knowing exactly what is wrong, poorly stated, or unconvincing *so that we can correct it*. But it makes the medicine a little easier to swallow if you start with a nice sentence.

Write **Major** (overall) comments (about one paragraph). What were the major problems? The most significant shortcomings? Was it well-written and clearly organized?

Write **Specific** comments. For ideas on what to include for these sections, see Peer Critique guidelines:

*Content* (specific comments on each section)

*Organization and Structure*

*Style and Grammar*

*Cited References*

In general, pick the most significant comments to write up first. *You are not obligated to provide more than two pages* (i.e., don't waste your time correcting every little thing).

Evaluate **Effectiveness of Collaboration**. Did each partner contribute significantly and more or less equally? (can be as short as one sentence, but please elaborate if you need to).

Focus on specific comments related to content. However, if there are problems in other areas, please tell them clearly.

5. Assign a numeric grade based on a 100% maximum scale.

It should be weighted (approximately) 60% Content, 20% Organization & Structure, 10% Style and Grammar, and 10% Cited References.

**The grade you give will not affect their grade at all. But will help clarify for everyone how papers are evaluated.** Help them get a better grade by being clear so that the final version can be as strong as possible.

**Your peer-review grade (10 pts)** will be based on the **quality of your critique**, including the reasonableness of the grade you assign.