


Peering In

I was excited to learn, at the start of the semester, that we would be doing graded peer reviews in English 1101. Not only do I enjoy this type of work, but I consider it among my few raw talents, and always appreciate the insight that a fresh set of eyes can provide. I have never held a negative opinion of peer reviews, though I sense that the majority of my new classmates might.

Very simply put, I am a lazy writer. I tend to procrastinate and skip early drafts, then edit as I go along, and revise too much after I think I'm finished. Structured peer reviews help to mitigate these problems in my writing process by providing me with a second opinion very early on. The peer reviewer acts not only as a stoplight to guide my writing, but also as the proverbial wall against which I can test new ideas and experiments. I also feel that my experiences and insight are beneficial to other writers, and I take this type of feedback seriously. The following is one such review that I provided to a fellow student, a strong-visioned writer with great ideas, albeit some lingering issues in the formal side of things. In this review, I focused on restructuring his own words into stronger, more convincing sentences, and in correcting the recurring issues seen in his grammar and punctuation. My comments are shown in blue text, with suggested additions highlighted in yellow, and suggested omissions stricken through.



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