

When I was in high school, I hardly helped my friends to check their essays or other writing assignments because I wasn't confident enough to give them accurate suggestions.

Since my first language is not English, I always ask my American friends for grammar and structure advice. Therefore, doing peer reviews for other students is somehow a new experience for me. At first, I thought the only thing I have to do for my peer review member is to highlight grammar mistakes I found. However, instead of only marking all the grammar issues, peer review should also focus on the other grading rubrics: Unity, Evidence/Development, Coherence, and Audience Awareness. In the following review I did for Shihan's first writing project, I tried to answer some questions while I was browsing through his paper to check whether or not he has met all the grading rubrics. I pointed out both good reasoning he wrote and confusions, which need to be explained further. Reading other people's work not only helps them to detect problems, but also helps me to check things I might forget. Since this was the first review I made for my classmate, I didn't leave out a lot of comments. I wish I could highlight more good sentences and encouraged him to organize his work in a better way.

Dear professor Bray,

I'm very glad to recommend a book for this semester's class. The book I want to recommend is *The Girl in Translation*. The following statement is the reason why I would

recommend. ¹ HOW: my answer of the three questions: 1. your recipient group is Chinese

students who study abroad 2. You recommend your recipients to read this book and get

more ideas about how to live and learn in a different country 3. The essayist thinks this

novel would make students appreciate more about what they have. There is a miss of your

thesis statement. I couldn't tell your reasonings from the introduction paragraph.

This book talks about a story about a Chinese girl living in America. When she was young,

her single mother took her to America to stay with their relatives. From then on, her tough

life began. Her relatives were very snobbish. They saw the girl and her mother as burden

and just let them live in a poor apartment with very bad condition. It is a big challenge to the

girl because she had to face a different environment, new language, new lifestyle. During

the day, she had to go to school and in the evening she had to go to a Chinatown sweatshop

to work. Life was hard and the future of her family also relied on her. She grabbed each

chance and in the end she got the admission from Yale University on her effort. ² HOW: It

seems like you have too much background information, and you did not put in text citation

for the summary.

The story in this book is highly related to the writer Jean Kwok's own experience. She also immigrated to America when she was young. In the end, she was admitted by Harvard University on her effort. During her university life, she did 4 part-time jobs. I think this book really covers my interest. In fact, this book is also a good book for all my Chinese classmates. Because we all left our own country and come to a different environment. We all have to face a lot of challenges like the girl in this book. This book I think it really gives a detailed

description of the immigrants' life in America. Reading this book is a kind of stimulation to

us because it teaches us how to face the challenges in a new environment. ³ WOW: You

state clearly the connection between the reader's identity, international students, and the

protagonist in this novel. Your evidence from the novel supports your point about why we

should read this book. Because in this story, the girl suffered many difficulties, she just

accepted it without any complaint. In my opinion, if we want to be admitted or respected by people around us, what we should do is to make a big difference to prove our strength.

Complaining doesn't make sense. Moving to a new environment not only means challenges,

but also means chances. Because we get the access to a good environment of learning English, also it is a good chance for us to make more new friends. We should grab as many chances as we can so that we can be accepted by the new environment. God always takes care of the person who is ready for the upcoming chances. Nowadays more and more Chinese students can have the chance to go abroad to study because of the improvement of their family's economics. Their families can afford to provide the chance for them. So they don't need to work by themselves to ensure their normal lifestyle. When they go abroad, they can also get together with people who has the same nationalities with them and they won't easily get lonely. So I think they are more lucky than the main character in this book. They don't need to face any difficulties. So they should appreciate the chance provided by their parents.

They should study hard so that they can make their dreams [come true](#)⁴ [HOW: Maybe you](#)

[should write more paragraphs about other reasons why ENGL class should read this book](#)

[besides the content of this book relates to our lives. WOW: You explain your reasoning in](#)

[details and you use the common ground persuasive strategy really well.](#) .

I think it's a good book to our class and I hope you will like it. I will be very delight if we read this book for this semester and everyone in our class can benefit from it.

Yours sincerely,

Shihan Lyu