

CRM, Spring 2018
Prof. Shannon King
Peer Review and Critical Reading

I. Global questions:

What is the thesis of the work? How can the writer make the thesis clearer?

Is the paper focused enough? Is it too broad? How might the writer zero in on a more specific topic? Is there a question that the paper is attempting to answer? How might the writer formulate a question that constructively focuses their work?

What are the main points or themes of this paper? How can the writer make these themes or main points clearer?

Is the paper organized around these main themes? Are the themes organized logically? Do they make sense, historically? Does the organization of the essay facilitate the development of the thesis?

II. Local questions:

Do the topic sentences explain the main themes of the paragraph?

Does the writer have mostly summary paragraphs or analytical paragraphs? Are there mixed paragraphs?

In the mixed paragraphs, does the writer set-up the example properly? Does the writer use examples that best exemplify the thesis/objective of the paragraph? Does the writer analyze the example?

Does the writer complete their thoughts in the paragraph? Do you feel the paragraphs say all of what they need to say? Are there unnecessary sentences in the paragraph? Are there sentences missing in the paragraph?

Does the writer effectively transition from one area or paragraph to the next?

III. Writerly questions:

Is the writing in active or passive voice?

Does the writer's tone fit the subject matter? Does this make a difference?

Does the author use different kinds of sentences? Simple? Compound? Complex? Does this matter?

Does the writer use their sentences strategically? For example, would a short sentence work better than a long sentence to emphasize a point?

Does the writer appeal to the five senses? Does this matter or is this relevant to the subject of this work?