**Peer Assessment Activity—Undergraduate**

***If your partner has completed their essay outline, work through the following activity with them. If they haven’t, skip to Page 2.***

**Step 1: Self-Assessment**

*In Step 1, give your partner a chance to assess their performance on this portion of the assignment. Ask questions like the following:*

1. How much time did you spend on this assignment?
2. How early did you get started on it?
3. Did you have any issues with time management or motivation? If so, how could you deal with those issues in future?
4. What do you like about your paper so far? What are its strengths?
5. What do you dislike? What are its weaknesses?
6. What are you concerned about regarding the final draft?
7. What are you hoping to get feedback on?

**Step 2: Read the Draft and Provide Feedback**

*Note: if you also have your essay outline completed, have your partner read your draft during this time as well.*

*Once you’ve finished reading the draft, talk through the following components of the paper*

1. The introduction
   1. Is there a clear thesis? Is it easy to find?
   2. How compelling is the thesis? Does it do something interesting that goes beyond the text?
   3. Based on the introduction, are you able to determine how the paper is structured and how the author is going to arrive at the thesis? If not, how could this be improved?
2. The Structure
   1. Is the structure of the paper clear from the outline? If not, how could it be improved?
   2. Does the structure match up with what is described in the introduction?
   3. Does the structure ‘make sense’ (e.g. is information presented in the order you need it presented in order to make sense of the thesis)?
3. The Background Information
   1. Does the author provide you with the background information you need in order to understand their thesis/the view to which they’re responding? If not, what do they need to add/clarify?
   2. Is there too much background information? If so, what could the author take out?
4. The Argument
   1. How does the paper argue for its thesis?
   2. Is the argument clear? If not, how could the author make it clearer?
   3. Was the argument compelling? How could the author make it more compelling?
5. Objections
   1. Did the author do a good job of considering and responding to plausible objections?
   2. Are there any objections that the author should have considered, but didn’t?

**Step 3: Next Steps**

*Strategize with your partner about next steps:*

1. Do they have any questions for you?
2. Do they have any particular worries about this paper? How might they address these worries?

***If your partner has not completed their outline, work through this activity with them***

**Step 1: Self-Assessment**

*In Step 1, give your partner a chance to assess their performance on this portion of the assignment. Ask questions like the following:*

1. How much time have you spent on the assignment so far?
2. How early did you get started?
3. Where do things stand with the assignment? Do you have a clear essay topic, but no outline, or are you still working to settle on a topic?
4. What are you struggling with on this assignment? What strategies might you employ to deal with those issues?
5. Have you reached out to anybody? (e.g. professor, other people in the class) to talk about the assignment? If not, do you think it would be helpful to do so?
6. What do you think the next steps in this project are?

*Next, complete one of the following two steps:*

**Step 2-A: Help Your Partner Find a Topic**

*Complete this step if your partner is still finding a topic. Ask questions/discuss things like the following:*

1. What potential topics are you deciding between? (offer to read over their essay pitches)
2. What are the pros and cons of each topic?
3. Talk through what an essay could look like if they chose topic A topic B etc.

**Step 2-B: Help Your Partner Get From Topic to Outline**

*Complete this step if your partner has a topic, but no outline. Ask questions like the following:*

1. What is the thesis that you’re arguing for?
2. How are you going to argue for the thesis?
3. What background information do you need to provide in order for the reader to understand your thesis and how you’re arguing for it?
4. What are some potential objections to your argument?
5. Given what your thesis is, and how you’re going to get to it, what structure makes sense for this paper? Do you think you could generate section headings now, along with a brief description of what goes in each section? (note: it is perfectly fine to help your partner do this!)

**Step 3: Next Steps**

*Strategize with your partner about next steps:*

1. Do you have a deadline for turning in this assignment? If not, could you set one with Prof. MacKenzie?
2. How much time do you think you need to complete this assignment?
3. Is there anything that is worrying you about this assignment? If so, what worries do you have, and how might you address them?