# Peer Editing Guide / Essays About Text

1. Does the writer have an introduction that speaks in general terms about the theme, context, author, or the plot? Does it include the name of the author and the title of the story/poem/essay? Does it define key terms if necessary? **Explain.**

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2. Thesis checklist:

   - ☐ Comes toward or at the end of the introduction
   - ☐ Expresses a problem to be solved, an issue to be resolved, or a argument worthy of support
   - ☐ Contains a clear subject
   - ☐ Contains an accurate active verb
   - ☐ Contains a "what"
   - ☐ Expresses the "so what"
   - ☐ Presents only ONE argument in the paper (AVOID COMPOUND SENTENCES)

   - ☐ Contains carefully chosen words that limit its meaning
   - ☐ Is a statement of judgement or inference—it is NOT a fact.
   - ☐ The statement takes a risk (check with teacher for applicability)
   - ☐ Does not reveal the support the essay will provide or telegraph all main areas of paper
   - ☐ Answers the whole question/prompt

3. Does each body paragraph begin with a focused topic/thesis sentence that directs and shapes the argument and paragraph? **Explain.**

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4. Are all references to the text integrated into the student's prose? Is each transition unique? Is evidence correctly quoted and cited? **Explain.**

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5. Does the textual evidence support the argument at the beginning of the paragraph? If not briefly explain why and how it could be improved? (Think "what" and "so what.) **Explain.**

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6. Does the writer's analysis **fully develop** the point/argument, or does it leave unanswered questions or vague assertions? Does it answer questions such as "so what," "why do we care," etc.? **Explain.**

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7. Is the analysis thoughtful and probing? Does it analyze the evidence without merely repeating it? Is the analysis abstract? Does it link to the overall thesis in the paragraph, or does it drift? **Explain.**

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8. Does the concluding paragraph revisit the overall thesis without restating it word-for-word? Does it provide a reason for having read the essay? Does it link to some larger issue, the "big picture" (if applicable)? Does it once again mention the title and author's full name? **Explain.**

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II. <u>Top Twelve List of Things to Avoid Checklist</u>

- ☐ No Passive Voice
- ☐ No Contractions
- ☐ No First Person or Second Person
- ☐ No Verbs of the Form "To Be"
- ☐ No Fragments, Run-Ons, or Comma Splices
- ☐ No Hypothetical Questions
- ☐ No Past or Future Tenses
- ☐ No Naked Quotations
- ☐ No use of would, could, should etc. (except when in quoted material)
- ☐ No use of seems, maybe, perhaps etc. (except when in quoted material)

- ☐ The paper does not praise the author
- ☐ The paper does not refer to the author by first name only.

- ☐ III. <u>Overall Format Checklist</u>

- ☐ MLA Guidelines followed
- ☐ Proper internal documentation
- ☐ Proper citation of works cited page
- ☐ Proper headings
- ☐ Proper punctuation