IB American Studies

Peer Edit

**Big Ideas** *(with the purpose of the writer taking a second look at what works and what’s not working so well in his/her essay)*

Writer:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Editor:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Read the thesis. Is it clear? Focused? Precise? Well-written? Does it present a point which can be argued, or is it just a fact?
2. Look at the evidence. Is it strong? Does it help prove the thesis? Or could the writer have chosen stronger evidence? Is the writer using enough of each quotation that you understand the point? Are there ***clear lead-ins*** that clarify context for each quotation? Is the writer using quotations throughout the essay to help prove his/her thesis, or are there large sections with no quoted evidence?
3. Does the ***order*** of the arguments make sense? Or are the arguments in no particular order? Could the writer re-order the arguments to make a stronger essay? Is the writer using clear transitions to lead the reader through his/her argument?
4. Are they getting to the ***effect*** of their ideas/techniques presented? The depth of analysis only comes when the writer takes time to get to the effect.
5. Look at the introduction and conclusion. Are they saying important things or is there “fluff” that should be eliminated?
6. Do you see the writer giving the story back to Lee? In other words, ***it should not have the characters creating anything***.

**Finally:** What are two things that worked well in this essay? What are two things the writer might want to take a second look at? Be specific.

Worked well:

1.

2.

You might want to take a second look at:

1.

2.

**Looking at the Details**

* Is the paper printed in 12 pt Times New Roman font? (yes, we’re that picky)
* Is the title of the play or novel *italicized* or underlined?
* Does the paper have a title related to the writer’s ideas? Must give the reader an idea of the paper’s contents.
* Check the Works cited page: is it correct? Correct format? Starts on a new page? Title is centered? Everything double spaced (no extra spacing)? All necessary bibliographical information present?
* Are in text citations correctly done? Is everything cited that should be?
* Check to see whether all quotations are smoothly and **correctly** embedded in sentences. Let the writer know if something is not working.
* Is the paper written in present tense? The narrator says…Scout goes…etc.
* Check for first and second person…should be avoided. (I, you, me, my, your).
* Check for run-ons, comma splices, and sentence fragments…should be avoided.
* Check for passive voice and ***empty transitions***…should be avoided.
* Check for other spelling, grammar, capitalization, etc. errors. If something sounds awkward, let the writer know.

**GOOD JOB! YOU DID IT!**