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Peer Response Sheet | Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning

Writer: _____

Reader: _____

RECORD YOUR RESPONSES TO THE FOLLOWING
QUESTIONS EITHER IN THE SPACES BELOW OR ON
SEPARATE SHEET(S) OF PAPER.

Read the paper through once, rather quickly, without pausing to write comments. Then put the paper aside and answer the following questions without looking back. (If you can't answer the question, write "I don't know.")

1. What single feature of the paper stands out to you as a reader?
2. What do you think is the writer's main point?
3. Was there anything in the paper that seemed confusing to you? (If so, explain briefly).

Now reread the paper, making any comments in the margins you feel would be helpful. Try to comment on development and

organization of ideas: Do you understand the points the writer is trying to make? Do ideas seem well-connected? **Remember, you are not being asked to evaluate the paper; you are being asked to respond to it with an eye toward helping the writer improve it.**

4. Underline the thesis statement. Is it clearly stated? If not, what seems confusing?

5. Is there any place where the writer needs to support an idea with more concrete detail or explanation? If so, where?

6. How well does the writer make transitions between his/her main ideas? Identify places that need better transitions.

7. List at least two ways in which the essay could be improved.

8. List at least two things you like about the paper.

9. What would you like to know more about? What questions do you still have?

10. Ask of the essay "so what?" after you finish reading. Write a sentence or two paraphrasing the point of the paper, answering the question, "in what way(s) is this interesting, surprising, intriguing, etc.?" If the paper lacks a "so what," point that out and discuss the possibilities.