

PEER EDITING

Goals for Second Draft:

- Create an interesting introductory paragraph
- Revise your thesis statement
- Create a concluding paragraph that does not “sum up” or give advice

Reader: *Put your name and e-mail address at the top of your partner's paper.* Silently read the introduction and conclusion on your partner's draft. After you have read these paragraphs once, follow the below directions. (This draft with peer comments will be turned in with the final draft.)

1. Put large brackets around the introductory paragraph(s) and the concluding paragraph(s). Discuss with your partner whether or not these are the intended introduction and conclusion. If they are not, discuss with your partner how she/he can clearly delineate these paragraphs from the body of the essay.
2. After reading the introductory paragraph make a list of the topics that are indicated in the paragraph. Discuss with your partner whether these topics are fully covered within the essay.
3. Underline the thesis statement. In your own words, re-write the thesis statement and pinpoint the focused argument. If you do not understand the thesis statement, discuss this with your partner and brainstorm on an effective thesis statement that has a focused argument.
4. Does the concluding paragraph “echo” the main idea/argument or repeat. On your partner's draft, write “echo” or “repeats” out to the side of the concluding paragraph. Underline the most provocative sentence or phrase in the paragraph and discuss its importance with your partner.
5. Does the concluding paragraph ask the reader to think beyond the main idea? Does it give advice? (Avoid this!)
6. Does the essay have a title? Does it say anything interesting about the essay? (If not, discuss with your partner.)

Sample Paragraphs

Introduction

“Space, the final frontier. These are the voyages of the Starship *Enterprise*. Its continuing mission, to explore strange new worlds. To seek out new life and new civilizations. To boldly go where no man, er . . . um . . . where no one has gone before.” This opening monologue to the TV series *Star Trek* and *Star Trek: The Next Generation* is one of the most recognizable in television history. It has existed in nearly the same form since the original series debuted in 1966. However, as one can see above, it has not gone completely unchanged. As the world around *Star Trek* transformed during those thirty years, the program itself adjusted to the changing world around it. And yet this is one of science fiction’s great strengths. Behind all the action, technical wizardry, and stunning special effects, there exists an ideal stage to comment on present-day culture. This is because the way we as a society view the future reveals a great deal about how we live in the present. Indeed, science fiction is often a mirror of the real world where present-day issues are discussed in a futuristic setting.

Conclusion

Indeed, this is the strength of all kinds of science fiction. No other kind of program is in a more ideal position to comment on our world. Oddly, or perhaps expectedly, science fiction does this from a platform that is usually out of this world.