

Critical Friends Checklist and Revision Guide

Name of Writer:

Name of Evaluator(s):

1. INTRO- Does the writer begin with a hook that draws in the reader? Is the general context provided (text, author, plot overview)? Does it transition smoothly? Does it walk the reader clearly through the progression towards the thesis? *Explain.*

2. Thesis Checklist: *Check off those that are done correctly. Circle what needs to be fixed.*

Comes at the end of the introduction

Directly addresses the prompt/query

It is well articulated & easy to understand

Does not reveal all the supports

3. BODY- Does each body paragraph begin with a focused topic sentence that is distinct from the other body paragraphs? Does it set up the paragraph effectively? *Explain.*

4. BODY- Are all references/evidence from the text integrated into the commentary effectively? Is each correctly quoted and cited? *Explain.*

5. BODY - Does the textual evidence support the point presented at the beginning of the paragraph? Is it relevant and effective? If not, briefly explain why and how it can be improved.

6. BODY- Does the writer go beyond description and break down the evidence and evaluate how it links to the point and ultimately, the thesis? *Explain.*

7. BODY -Is the analysis thoughtful and probing? Does it analyze without repeating? Does it link or drift? *Explain.*

8. CONCLUSION- Does the concluding paragraph revisit the overall thesis without restating it word for word? Does it give us a clear “so, what?” reason for having read the essay? Does it synthesize all the points into a bigger picture? Does it wrap up nicely?

Things to Remember or Avoid

No contractions!

No sentence fragments or run-ons!

Keep your tense consistent

Avoid uncertainty (should, could, seems, maybe)

Include title page and Works cited page

Limit first person/avoid second person

Capitalize ALL proper nouns!

Stay in formal register

Avoid giving a book/author review

Do NOT refer to author by her first name!

Any other notes?