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Peer Review

Peer review acknowledges that the act of writing is not solitary. In fact, it takes places as a series of conversations: the writer with the audience, the writer with herself or himself, and the writing with other writers. Peer review is one of those conversations.



Peer review gives students an opportunity to

engage each other about their writing. This kind of discourse about a piece of writing is an essential part of effectively revising a text and understanding how to make it more effective.Part of becoming an effective writer is learning that revision is an ongoing process that requires multiple steps. Peer review is one way to actively engage in that process, so it's a central part of all writing classes.

Peer review also provides an opportunity for students to read others' work. Through reading others' work, students are exposed to ideas that may be different than their own, or to ideas they've never before considered. Students also can read a variety of responses to the same subject or idea, which broadens their view of the world. This kind of engagement with ideas can change a student's beliefs, and can help the student consider new ideas. This process helps students make their writing stronger, more developed, and more precise.

The act of engaging with another person's writing also gives students the opportunity to consider the assignment beyond their own responses to it. Writers can think about how an effective text is formed, or the many different possibilities in creating an effective text in response to the assignment or prompt.