Writing Project #1: Blog Comments

In my Writing 101 classes, I strive to foster a community of writers. While writing can sometimes feel solitary, it's important to remember that we are part of a larger community of writers and readers. This is part of the reason that we share our writing on a regular basis in class, that I incorporate Undergraduate Writing Tutors into our course, and that I encourage you to make use of the Writing Studio and the Undergraduate Writing Partners throughout the semester. Sharing our writing with others and learning how to receive feedback from other readers are important goals of our course. They help us to learn about writing elements like claim and structure or voice and style, and about more social elements like empathy and tact or decision-making and respectful disagreement. As part of this community of writers, it's also important for us to give feedback on our peers' writing. This practice not only helps to build a community of writers in our classroom, but also helps us to read our own writing with fresh eyes and new writing strategies as we learn from our peers' writing.

Towards that end, we will be providing feedback on our peers' blog entries (#2 and #3) as well as their first drafts of Project #1. These blog comments are writing in response to your classmates' writing and should strive to offer feedback that is substantial and useful while remaining generous. Each week you will be commenting on two blog entries from peers in my other sections. Your blog comments should be directed at the audience of a peer whose work you've read and are responding to, but they will also be examined by me and assessed as part of your grade.

In your blog comments, strive to provide constructive criticism, pointing out both strong points and weak points in your peers' blog entry. Be sure to review the prompt for the specific blog entry before commenting and attend to the specificity of the prompt (e.g., blog entry #3 asks writers to practice "forwarding", so be sure to comment on the effectiveness of your peers' use of a scholarly reading). That said, it is also important to comment on more universal writing elements like claim, evidence, organization, etc. Your comments should be specific and focused. Rather than simply saying something is "great" or "confusing," explain why or how it is "great" or "confusing." If your peer's entry makes you think of a different course reading, don't just mention the author; point your peer to a specific passage from that course reading. As you read your peers' entries, keep in mind that they will need to choose which blog entry to expand and revise into their longer paper for Project 1 and your feedback may contribute to their decision.

In your comments, you should focus on Higher Order Concerns like claim, sources, organization, etc.; avoid commenting on Lower Order Concerns involving grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc. Please see the following Writing Studio handouts for help with peer-commenting:

Providing Feedback: http://twp.duke.edu/uploads/media_items/providing-feedback.original.pdf

Getting Feedback: http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/getting-feedback/

Revision Strategies: HOCs and LOCs:
http://twp.duke.edu/uploads/media_items/revision.original.pdf

Due Dates: See syllabus for specific due dates

Each Blog Comment should:
1) Comment on at least two aspects of the blog entry
2) Make specific suggestions about possible revisions or additions
3) Be courteous and respectful
4) Be between 150-200 words

To Post your Blog Comments:
1) Locate the entries of the writers in your group (see below)
2) Click on "Leave a Comment" at the bottom of the writer's post
3) Type (or copy and paste) your comment into the text box
4) Click "Post Comment"

Groups: Within your group, you will need to comment on one blog entry from the two sections to which you don't belong. For example, if you are in Group A, Section 15, then you should comment on a blog entry from Group A, Section 16, and a blog entry from Group A, Section 17. If a blog entry already has a comment from someone in your section or if a blog entry already has two comments, then choose another entry to comment on. <u>The idea is for everyone to get two comments on each blog entry</u>.

<u>Group A</u>
Section 15:
Section 16:
Section 17:

<u>Group B</u>
Section 15:
Section 16:
Section 17:

<u>Group C</u>
Section 15:
Section 16:
Section 17: