

9/26: Profile Essay Workshop Interview

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Profile Essay Workshop Interview Questionnaire

Directions: Each writer will read his/her/their essay aloud to the group. Screen and document sharing are optional but encouraged. Please do not interrupt the writer while reading. Instead, quietly jot down your questions and suggestions to discuss after the review.

All attention should be focused on reviewing one paper at a time.

Once the paper has been read, the **writer should interview the workshop group** using the following questions. Students should keep notes about the response to the questions below and turn in the completed questionnaire after the workshop today. Responses can be recorded as bullets or complete sentences.

1. Without further explanation, **describe my story's meaning** in 1-2 sentences. (Note: this is not the same as plot or topic).
2. Do my opening lines grab your interest and curiosity? Why? If not, suggest how I might improve these to pique your interest and build the foundation for my story.
3. What do you consider to be my essay's strength(s)? Please be SPECIFIC.
4. Identify and describe one section where my description and details effectively SHOW rather than TELL you the meaning of the story.
5. Give an example of something I might cut without losing the story's meaning, (e.g., sentences that announce what will be said or what has been said, or obvious details that can be assumed by the reader).
6. Are there any SPECIFIC sentences or passages where my thoughts seem disorganized or incomplete? Give suggestions for how I might improve these sections?
7. Find one example of a sentence or word choice that could be improved.
8. What do you notice most about my tone: word choice, analogies, humor, and other devices? What is one element you liked most? Why? Does my tone distract from my meaning at any point?
9. What else should I consider when revising this story?

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 Adapted from Murray, Donald M. "Making Meaning Clear: The Logic of Revision."