Peer Review of Student Writing

Advantages of Peer Review

- Feedback from other students can help students improve their papers.
- Seeing others' papers can give students ideas of things that need to be changed in their own papers.

Procedures I've Tried

Note: I instruct students to bring papers with their ID number, not their name.

Comment with a Partner: Each student brings one copy of his or her paper to class. Students find a partner. Each pair of students turns in their two papers. I redistribute them to another pair. The two students work together to provide feedback to both authors.

Comment on Two Papers: Each student bring two copies of his or her paper. Students turn in papers to me. I redistribute. Each person gives feedback to two others. They are encouraged to consult someone near them if they have questions.

Review at Home: Each student takes home one or two papers written by others students. Students type up suggestions for improvement.

Utilizing the Feedback

I usually do not grade the feedback that students give each other. I often do require them to turn in their original draft, the feedback they received, their final draft, and a cover letter explaining which of the feedback they utilized and which feedback that did not use and why. This cover letter is the same sort of thing an author would submit to a journal editor after being asked to revise and resubmit.

Guiding Questions and Other Instructions

- How could the author strengthen/improve the paper in terms of X? (Even a good paper could be better.)
- When they are done answering the individual questions about a paper, I often ask them to identify the three things the author should work on first.
- Discourage editing. Grammatical errors are the last thing to fix, not the first.
- Remind them to be constructive.

Other Resources

http://writing.colostate.edu/guides/teaching/peer

http://mendota.english.wisc.edu/~WAC/category.jsp?id=20