TSAR Workshop: Essay #2, Taking a Position

Think→Share→Advise→Revise

**Writer #1**: Read your paper out loud to your partner.

**Adviser #1**: Listen to the paper and offer advice on making the paper better, stronger, and more persuasive. Use the questions in order to provide constructive feedback.

1. **Identify thesis sentence(s)**. Is the writer making a clear and arguable claim that can be defended in the paper? *Share any suggestions for improvement.*

2. **Identify the topic sentence in each body paragraph**.

   **Does each topic sentence have a**:
   1) transition word or phrase;
   2) refer to the main claim in thesis?
   3) make a claim about ONE reason or counterargument?

   *Discuss and identify any missing items from each topic sentence.

3. **Now: go to the body paragraphs that offer support for the thesis**.

   **Did the writer use all three appeals in the supporting paragraphs?**
   a. **Ethical appeal** (“this is what happened to me”; “trust me—I have personal experience with this”)
   b. **Emotional appeal** (“this is how this will make you feel if you take/don’t take this position”)
   c. **Logical appeal** (“this is what just makes sense”)

   *Discuss type of appeal that you can’t exactly identify or that is missing.

4. **Go to the body paragraphs that identify AND respond to the counterarguments**. Is each counterargument either:
   a. **refuted** (“What you say is wrong, and here is why . . . “) or
   b. **accommodated** (“What you say is true, but here is how my position is more true . . . ”)

   *Discuss any counterargument paragraph that ONLY names the counterargument, but does not refute or acknowledge it.

If there is time:

5. **Go back to the introduction**. Is it interesting and effective? What strategy did the writer use?

6. **Go to the conclusion**. Is it also interesting and effective? What strategy did the writer use?