

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?