Evaluating Your First Draft

Ask a parent or other trusted adult to read and evaluate your research paper.

1. Read the introductory paragraph and stop. From the introduction alone, can you determine the paper’s topic and thesis statement? Write the topic and summarize the thesis below.

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Thesis: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Did the introduction interest you immediately? Why? If not, suggest concrete ways to make the introduction more appealing.

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1. Read the body of the paper. List the main ideas. Then write the supporting details for each main idea. Circle any main ideas that are unclear or poorly supported.
2. Which sections of the draft do you find most interesting? Tell what you like about them.

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1. Which sections of the draft do you find least interesting? Suggest how they could be improved.

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1. Where could the flow of information be improved? The information might be in the wrong order, or a transition between two ideas may need to be smoother. Suggest a way to fix the problem.

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1. Is there any section where more background information is needed? Explain.

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1. How well have the research sources been used? Is there a good variety? Is the information from the various sources smoothly combined? Would the draft be better if there were either more or fewer direct quotations from the sources?

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1. Read the conclusion. Is it logical and well written? Does it sum up the writer’s main points or conclude the draft in some other way? Is it long enough to leave the reader feeling everything has been addressed?

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10. Are there any spelling, punctuation, or grammatical corrections that need to be made? Please circle. Are any of the words improperly used? Please circle.

Adapted from *Research Paper and Report Writing,* Grades 6-8 The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.