

PEER REVIEW GUIDELINES FOR REL 360U, Native American Religions Due Monday, April 11.

Problem / Thesis Statement:

1. Does the thesis statement identify the main and subsidiary aspects of the problem at issue?
Is the thesis statement identifiable and clear?
Does it reveal the writer's attitude toward or argument in respect to the problem?
2. Does the thesis present a problem that is worth examining?
Does the thesis contain a statement that merits either argument or analysis?
3. Does the author recognize nuances of the problem?

Introductory Paragraph/s:

1. Evaluate the introduction.
Does the author use a specific technique to invite the reader's interest?
Does this technique work well?
2. Does the author identify his or her own perspective on the issue?
Is it clear that this perspective will be backed up by evidence and analysis?
3. Does the introduction mention the historical, cultural, or social context of the phenomenon under study? Does it mention the principal persons (historical personages or contemporary scholars) involved?

Content and Analysis:

1. Does the author consider more than one salient perspective or position on the issue in addition to his or her own?
2. Does the author draw on seemingly well-chosen outside sources for these perspectives or positions?
3. Does the author examine evidence (in both primary or secondary sources) relating directly to the problem?
4. Does the author adequately interrogate (question the accuracy or completeness, etc.) of others' assertions?
5. Does the author identify and question the validity of the assumptions underlying various perspectives on the problem at issue?
6. Does the author analyze the issue with a clear sense of scope and context, representing the positions of others fairly, and placing the positions of others in historical / cultural / social context?

Research Strategies:

1. Examine the use of research to forge this argument. Evaluate the writer's reliance on sources, integration of appropriate quotations, and other evidence.
Is there adequate support for the claims made? What could be added in terms of research? What needs work?

Concluding Paragraph/s:

1. Evaluate the conclusion and how the author provides a sense of closure at the end.
Does the author use appropriate techniques to bring the essay to sufficient closure, ending with impact (summary of main points, a call to action, a restatement of the main idea, etc.)?
2. Is the thesis still apparent and relevant?
3. Does the author identify possible implications and consequences of his or her assertions?

Mechanics:

1. Is the essay written and organized in a way that is clear and easy to understand?
2. Does each paragraph have a topic sentence that relates to the thesis?
Does each paragraph support the argument being made?
3. Does each paragraph contain sufficient examples, explanations, details, or commentary (comments about the examples or explanations) to provide an ample discussion of the topics introduced in the topic sentences?
4. Do the paragraphs seem coherent (connected in a logical manner and smooth and flowing)?
5. Comment on any place where the paper contains extraneous material that detracts from the main point or confuses the direction of the paper.
6. Note the technical, mechanical, grammatical, or other problems that the author needs to address.
7. Do quotations, ideas, and paraphrases seem to be properly attributed to their original sources?

General Response:

Write a short paragraph (10 to 15 sentences) in which you make any other suggestions for improvement of the paper, or reiterate any praise you wish to convey. Let the author know exactly where the strengths and weaknesses of the paper are.