

Sample Assignment

English 311: Chicana/ o Narrative

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Writing Workshop: Group Peer Review

PART ONE: READING & LISTENING

- 1) Work in small groups of four.
- 2) Take turns reading your partial draft aloud to your peer reviewer. Read slowly, clearly, and loud enough so that your peer has no trouble following along.
- 3) After writers finish reading their draft, reviewers must complete the peer review worksheet distributed along with these guidelines. **This should be done immediately after the paper has been read.** (So, there will be a silent break between each paper reading.)
- 4) Exchange roles and begin the process again.
- 5) While writers are reading their papers, the reviewers must refrain from talking or asking questions. Save these for the discussion at the end.

PART TWO: DISCUSSION

- 1) Once all essays have been all worksheets completed, reviewers will take turns sharing their feedback with the writers. This will take awhile, because each student is going to be responding to three students at a time. (And will sit through three responses to *their own* work).
- 2) While writers listen to their peer's responses, they should take notes (ideally), but should not enter into the discussion. The writer listens, without trying to defend the piece or explain a point or argument.

BOTH PARTS: PROTOCOL

- It is very important that the writer **refrains from talking** during the discussion stage.
- Of course, reviewers must be as candid and courteous as possible. Feedback that does not offer honest insight is unhelpful and a waste of time. Incendiary feedback can often fall on deaf ears and stir a natural defensiveness. The upshot? Choose your words carefully. Do not be too polite; do not be insulting.
- As you read your draft, listen for moments in the essay that sound unclear, awkward or even repetitive. Oftentimes reading our essays can help us identify flaws or weaknesses that we might otherwise miss when reading them silently to ourselves.
- Be sure to complete the worksheet **immediately** after your peer has read his/her essay aloud to the group.