Name:

Name of author of essay you are reviewing:

1. Read the introduction. Is the topic clear from the first sentence? What is the topic? Are the sentences connected by transitions?

2. What is the opinion about the topic? Does the thesis clearly state the topic and the opinion? Reread the introduction. Do you feel that the writer provided enough foundation for you to understand the reason for his/her opinion?

3. Read the first body paragraph. Does it have a topic sentence that can be directly related to the thesis? List three to four words from the paragraph that directly connect to the thesis.

4. Does the first body paragraph have examples and explanations for the topic sentence? List a sentence of example or explanation that stood out to you and state what you like about it.

5. Does the writer provide a wrap up to the first paragraph?

6. Read the second body paragraph. Do the sentences have transitions between them? Do they have cohesion? Which is the writer’s most effective transition?

7. Look over all of the body paragraphs and determine the writer’s most insightful point. State the point and state what it shows about the topic.

8. Read the conclusion. Compare the sentences to the topic sentences and thesis statement. Do the refer to each other clearly?

If you’d like a challenge:

Here is a challenging way to review—copy and paste ONE paragraph from the essay you are reviewing here:

Then, using that paragraph, insert numbers by the sentences (the fist sentence is #1, and so on). Next, read the paragraph carefully, assessing the order of each sentence. Now suggest a new sentence sequence (would sentence #5 be a better beginning for the paragraph?)--of course, you may have to suggest some structural changes to make the new sentence sequence flow, as in adding transitional words, or even suggest rewording the sentence to make it fit with the new sequence. You will very likely find that a sentence that comes later in the paragraph makes a more emphatic topic sentence. <---why should you try this? It can help you practice critically assessing your own work. You could even try it with your own essay.

Please let me know if you have any questions on the review questions.