“Motherly” Relationship Essay – Peer Editing

Objectives: Students will read a peer’s essay. Students will edit for punctuation, grammar, usage, etc. Students will create a final draft.

Activity One: You MUST have a 99 % completed, clean second draft (not a first draft with markings). You should not need to add majorly important information.

Activity Two: Trade papers (this editing worksheet as well as the second draft).

Activity Three: Peer Editor - Write your name here. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Activity Four: Read the essay for comprehension. While you will not be revising for content, having a good understanding of the topic at hand will aid in your knowledge of how to handle grammatical issues.

Activity Five: Use the list below to mark the essay for possible issues. Remember: you may not be the best grammarian, but you might not have read this piece. Therefore, your brain will probably find something that the writer’s brain will *not* see. You should do as good of a job on your peer’s essay as you would want someone to do with your own essay.

1. Spelling – skim the essay backward – CIRCLE any word that you know or think might be misspelled. Write the label ***sp?*** in the margin to trigger the need to look up the word. Better safe than sorry!
2. Commas – skim the essay and HIGHLIGHT *every single* comma – If you see a comma that you are not sure is needed or the absence of a comma where you believe one should be, make a note in the margin. If the writer doesn’t know, he/she should ask.
3. Contractions – skim the essay and BOX every contraction except in dialogue. NO CONTRACTIONS should be in the final draft – informal language.
4. Title – Examine the title – If it is boring, put a BIG X through it and label BORING! Writer – go back and find a phrase from your essay that might serve as a thematic idea/title. Do not use “Motherly Relationship” – ugh!
5. MLA formatting – Is it typed? Yes No
   1. 12 pt. font, Times New Roman or Arial
   2. Heading in upper left hand corner (name, period, English II, date)
   3. Double spaced (all of it, even the heading)
   4. No bold, italics, all caps, etc. unless used for emphasis
6. Verbs – Find all of the verbs (action or state of being) – Highlight them all. If it is a boring verb, put an X through it. Writer – find a new one! Google a list of vivid verbs or use a thesaurus to find the best word…DICTION!

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