# Writing Feedback? Write on!

Feedback can be a helpful process for gaining perspective and improving your writing. It can also feel intimidating or challenging to figure out when, who, and how to ask for feedback. Creating a plan can help make the process smoother and more effective.

When to Get Feedback

Feedback can be useful at any point in the writing process—even before you've written anything—and it can also be helpful at specific stages where feedback can serve a unique purpose. Here are common stages when feedback is helpful:
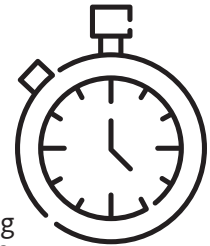
- ☑ *Prior to writing* when you're working on understanding a prompt or creating a plan for your writing process
- ☑ *When you're using invention strategies* to generate a range of ideas
- ☑ *When you're planning* a research process
- ☑ *After drafting* an outline and before you start writing
- ☑ *After writing* your first draft
- ☑ *After finishing* a later, more polished draft
- ☑ *After you've earned a grade* on an assignment

Who to Ask for Writing Feedback

You can ask for feedback on any type of writing. Some people may be able to give feedback on any writing, while others may primarily give feedback on types of writing they are more familiar with. To brainstorm who to ask for feedback, consider the following:

- Which feedback partners *fit the intended audience* of your writing?
- Who do you know that is *familiar with the type of writing* you're doing?
- *What type of feedback are you wanting?* For example, do you want focused suggestions from your professor, or feedback from a general reader who is less familiar with the assignment?

Potential Writing Feedback Partners

Based on the type feedback you're looking for, who might you connect with? Check the box or circle:

- ☐ Writing Center consultants
- ☐ Instructor or TA for class
- ☐ Career Development Center
- ☐ Students who've taken similar courses
- ☐ Peers unfamiliar with the content
- ☐ Friend or family member
- ☐ Mentor

How to Ask for Feedback

Asking for specific feedback on writing can help your reader focus on your goals and support your process. It can also help your reader understand the type of feedback you want given your writing process and where you'd like to focus your time and attention. Here are a few tips for asking for feedback:

- ☐ *Be specific*. Let your feedback partner know what you would like feedback on.
- ☐ Ask for feedback on *areas that working well and on areas for improvement*.
- ☐ Encourage your feedback partner to *ask questions about the writing itself or your writing process*.
- ☐ *Ask for feedback in a format that works well for you*. What do you prefer?
  ☐Digital feedback (comment bubbles) on a file ☐written feedback on a physical copy, or ☐a conversation where you take notes as you talk about the draft.

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I Want Feedback on…

Naming specific areas for feedback can ensure you're getting feedback that will advance your writing process. It also helps you and your feedback partner come to an understanding about the feedback's focus. Think about your writing project. Using the list below, mark specific feedback areas to talk through with your feedback partner.

Assignment Requirements	**Organization**
☐ Responding to the assignment prompt ☐ Including all required elements ☐ Audience ☐ Topic (what you're writing about) ☐ Purpose (why you're writing) ☐ Focus (your main idea/thesis)	☐ Introduction & conclusion ☐ Paragraph order ☐ Paragraph development (focus, order of ideas and sentences) ☐ Topic sentences ☐ Transitions ☐ Headings and subheadings
Support & Evidence	**Writing Style**
☐ Argument/claims ☐ Analysis ☐ Choice of evidence (type, amount, relevance) ☐ Use of sources (type, currency, relevance) ☐ Integration and explanation of sources ☐ Summary, paraphrase, and quoting ☐ Citations	☐ Word choice ☐ Discipline-specific language/jargon ☐ Level of formality ☐ Concision ☐ Sentence fluency (rhythm, flow of sentences) ☐ Sentence variety (type of sentences) ☐ Tone ☐ Emphasis
Proofreading	**Organization**
☐ Grammar (system, rules for language) ☐ Syntax (order of words/phrases within sentences) ☐ Punctuation ☐ Spelling ☐ Typos ☐ Citations ☐ Link verification	☐ Header/footer ☐ Title ☐ Headings ☐ Margins ☐ Font type, size ☐ Line spacing ☐ Style (e.g., APA, MLA) ☐ Integration of visuals

Conversation to Build Understanding

There are a wide variety of approaches to writing: our language and writing styles reflect our lives, identities, and experiences. *Language is deeply personal, and each writing context is unique in its needs.* When asking for feedback, keep in mind that each reader has a different identity, background, and experience with language which may shape what they observe or offer feedback on. Having an open conversation about your writing choices can be a good way to develop understanding between you and your feedback partner. Conversation can also provide your feedback partner with context to help them focus on areas you would find most helpful to your writing process.
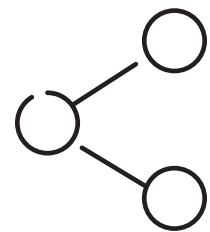
Source list available at writingcenter.oregonstate.edu/sources-citations

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