SUGGESTIONS FOR PEER REVIEWERS
As a peer reviewer, your job is to assist your classmate’s writing effort. This does not require a huge time commitment, but can drastically improve the final paper. I find it best to read a paper at least twice: first, to get a feel for the overall flow and structure (a macro read), and then another time for making typographical, grammatical, and finer-scale corrections and suggestions (a micro read). When reviewing your peer’s paper, answer the following questions:

1) Is the research question and thesis statement/paragraph obvious, clearly stated, and within the first few paragraphs of the paper? If not, how can it be improved?

2) Is there a logical progression of ideas that lend support to the author’s argument? If not, how can the organization or reasoning be improved? Has the author considered and provided evidence against opinions that run contrary to their thesis?

3) What lines of reasoning are weak, and which are strong? How can weak ones be improved?

4) Does the structure of the paragraphs make sense, with a topic sentence at the beginning followed by thoughts or data to support/expand upon the topic sentence? Are there specific paragraphs and/or sections that need work?

5) Are there substantial connections made to materials discussed in, and read about for, class? If few or weak, how can these connections be increased and/or strengthened?

6) Does the author use correct in-text citations and bibliographic format? Does the author cite the source for all information that needs to be cited?

7) Do you have anything else to add?

SUGGESTIONS FOR WRITERS IN RESPONSE TO REVIEWS
Writing and rewriting is the key to producing a good paper. Struggling with creating good macro and micro structure and good sentences may be difficult, but it pays off in the end. Produce a draft and place it in the refrigerator (literally or figuratively) for a few days for a “cooling off” period. Come back to it refreshed and you will see many more items that can be improved than if you just hammer away on it for days on end.

Make time to read, ponder, and implement the suggestions provided by your peer reviewer. They provide a fresh perspective and can greatly strengthen the final paper. Be sure to also thank your peer for their suggestions.
**DUE DATES AND LOGISTICS**

Term paper drafts will be exchanged on Feb. 24 (whether it be electronic or paper format is up to the agreement between writer and reviewer). Each of you will be responsible for reviewing another student’s paper. These reviews are due to the writer and myself before or in class on Mar. 3. Review using either electronic methods (e.g., track changes in Pages or Word) or paper (written comments) is acceptable, but either way I need to see evidence that it has occurred.