Peer Review Three

Directions: Read through these questions, then read the assigned rough drafts from your peers. Once you’ve done that, answer the questions below. Your primary aim should be to help the author with the content of the paper -- and not to simply edit the work.

Comment on the quality of the introduction. Does it catch your interest? Does it move logically or naturally into the thesis statement (and, for that matter, is the thesis statement the last sentence of the introduction)? Comment below on how to improve the introduction.

Comment on the quality of the conclusion. Does it step back a tie up loose ends? Does it consider the implications of the ideas in the paper? Does it answer that all important question of SO WHAT?

Does this paper fulfill the prompt (that is, does it answer the question that the prompt poses)? Can you tell what the main idea of this paper is supposed to be beyond a summary of the author used as the source material? If not, comment below on how the author might better focus this paper.

The following tasks ask you to primarily comment on the paper itself:

- Consider the quality of the topic sentences. Does each body paragraph have one? Mark one particularly effective topic sentence on the paper. Then mark one that isn’t particularly effective.
- Consider the quality of the transitions from paragraph to paragraph. Do the paragraphs make sense in this order? Do the paragraphs have clear transitional phrases or words? Mark on the paper the effect transitions; then mark where there could be a more effective transition, even suggesting words that might make the link clearer.
- How does this paper deal with direct evidence? Mark positively any place that the author does a good job integrating the quotation onto his or her own words; mark places where the author needs to integrate quotations better -- and include suggestions as to how he or she might do that. Finally, use part of the back of this sheet to make suggestions for additional quotations or ideas that would help the author support the thesis of this paper.
- When the writer uses direct evidence, how well does the writer explain and analyze it? Mark places where you think there could be further clarification and elaboration. At those points where there something is confusing, write a question about the part that you do not understand.

And as a last task, on the back of this sheet (or on the back of the last page of the paper), write 4-6 sentences responding to this argument. Do you think that this argument is valid? Are there any major points that are unclear or any assertions you disagree with? Explain why.