

Rules for peer response groups established for face-to-face settings*

- Groups sit facing one another, and—if possible—each member has a copy of the paper to be shared.
- The writer reads his/her own paper without apology or explanation.
- The listeners/readers do not interrupt during the reading, but may make checks or jots on the copy of the paper
- The group members take a moment of silence to allow for reflection and for formulating their responses
- Starting on the writer's right, the members respond in the first round with positive comments (“I like...”) and/or sharing the impact of the writing (“Your story sounds familiar to me because my grandmother was the same good cook as yours...”)
- During these responses, for at least the first round, the writer does not say anything and should let the writing stand alone and speak for itself. The writer may take notes.
- The responses keep going around the circle of members, and after the first remarks, the members may show where they were confused, ask for elaboration in the writing, suggest words, etc. After at least two rounds, the group members do not have to adhere to responding in order, and may have a more open discussion about the writing. If the writer is asked a direct question, he/she may respond, but it is best if the writer stays silent and takes in all suggestions.



*Adapted from:

Elbow, P. (1974). *Writing without teachers*. New York: Oxford University Press.