English 1A Fall 2011 **Peer Editing Worksheet: Personal Essay**

Writer:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Reviewer:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

for the writer:
1. What is **your thesis**? (Remember that it should be an arguable statement, ideally a claim with reasons, and not a cliché.) Please put a star by it on the draft.

2. **What is your audience and forum** (who you want to read it and where you’d publish it so they’d find it)? Be specific! Don’t say “a blog.”

3. What in particular do you want the reviewer to check?

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For the reviewer: Write answers on the back of this sheet if necessary.

1. Do **the title and opening paragraph** catch your interest? Is it fairly clear what this will be about? What might make it clearer or more interesting? (Note: it is more important for the introduction to be interesting than to be clear in this sort of essay.)

2. Is **the thesis** clear, adequate, and supported by the story provided? (Note: it doesn’t need to be in the beginning.) Where the writer reflects on the meaning of the incident, object, place, or whatever, do **the reflections** fit with the story? Are the reflections interesting enough, or should they be deeper?

3. Is there adequate **description**, both to engage the intended audience and clarify the information? What might warrant further description?

4. Is there **an event or series of event**s to illustrate the writer’s point? Is there enough “plot” to flesh out the ideas? Would more character development help? Be as specific as you can.

5. How does **the writer’s ethos** come across, judging, if you can, as the intended audience would?

6. As a reader, are you left with **any questions** about the issue that should be further clarified or supported? What might readers like to know more about? Be as specific as you can.

7. **What do you like best** about the essay?