English 2 Spring 2017 **Peer Review Worksheet: Refutation Essay**

Writer:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Reviewer:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
for the writer:
1. Where is your **thesis—**the best overall statement on the topic? (Put an asterisk by it on both drafts.)
2. What is your target **audience** and **forum?**

3. What in particular do you want your reviewer to check?
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1. At a glance: is it **correct MLA format**? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Is it complete (1500 words or so)? \_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Is the **opening** (title and first line or two) engaging, something that will make the target reader want to keep going? \_\_\_\_\_ Is there enough information about the issue and about the original argument this writer is refuting to orient the reader? \_\_\_\_\_ How could the opening be improved?

3. Is there a clear and reasonable **thesis** in a rhetorically effective location (not necessarily the opening paragraph)? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Is there enough of a **summary** of the other writer’s argument for someone who hasn’t read the original piece but not so much that it is tedious to wade through or it crowds out other, more important material? \_\_\_\_\_ (Remember: a summary doesn’t have to be given in one lump and is often better broken up.) Does it seem fair and even-handed or does it seem to slant the summary towards ***straw man*** territory? How might the summary part be improved?

5. Consider the writer’s **ethos**, both in terms of **what is said** and **how it is phrased**. Note: With a refutation it can be easy to slip into sarcasm or *ad hominem* attacks that damage the refutation-writer’s ethos more than they help the argument. How might the ethos appeal be improved?

6**.** Consider the writer’s use of **logos**. If it is an issue of fact or policy, is there enough **factual material** to support the writer’s claim? \_\_\_ If it is a matter of values, is there some appropriate kind of support, not just the assertion of an opinion (e.g. details about relevant legal precedents, details about negative effects of a particular custom or behavior)? How might the logos appeal be improved?

7. Consider the writer’s use of **pathos.** Are there appropriate and effective appeals to the audience’s emotions (e.g. specific reference to faith traditions and/or statement of moral values *shared by the audience*, an appeal to civic values *shared by the audience*)? How might the pathos appeal be improved?

8. **How are the source citations WITHIN THE TEXT of the essay?** \_\_\_\_\_ [turn over—there’s more!]

8. **Source citations (continued)** Are there any parts where the citations seem unclear, incomplete, or missing altogether? \_\_\_\_\_

Is there too much quoting or paraphrasing? \_\_\_\_\_

Mark on the draft any problems, particularly missing citations or quotation marks.

9. Is the **works cited page** properly formatted using **current MLA style?** If not, WARN the writer! If you’re not sure—look it up or ask!

10. Does the **conclusion** wrap up the argument strongly, not just by tediously repeating the main points and the thesis? \_\_\_\_\_ How might the conclusion be improved?

11. What do you think is the strongest element of the paper?