

Peer Review

Also see the *Student Writing Group Project (SWGP)*, a service provided by Writing Across the Curriculum and the Writing Center at LIU Brooklyn.

For teachers, as well as students, peer review can bring many benefits to the classroom.

Benefits for Instructors:

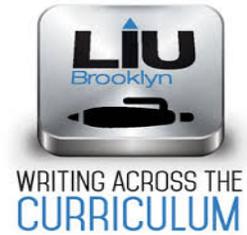
Students open up discussion to places the class would not have gone. Having a diversity of opinions is useful to the teacher because no one is a perfect writer.

Keeps the class interesting. If there is a lull in the students' attention, a workshop will usually wake them up. This creates a more exciting and spontaneous classroom for a teacher who might have been teaching the same syllabus for years.

Relieves the burden of commenting in detail on first drafts. Teachers' workloads can be reduced because each student receives multiple copies of their paper marked with comments.

Benefits for Students:

Self-efficacy. For many students having an audience in a non-graded environment for their assignments allows them to share, sometimes for the first time, their thoughts on writing. While students are learning how to critique, they are also put into the position of having to take criticism as well. In this exchange students leave the workshop with the important skill of dealing with critique, how to improve their



essays and a belief in their own writing abilities. Studies have shown self-efficacy is linked to an increase in writing performance.

Audience. Having an audience for the first time is an exciting, or nerve-wracking, experience for many students, but it is usually rewarding. The opportunity to have an audience for their work demonstrates the conversation that writing evokes. It promotes the principle that the writing should be clear enough for their peers to understand it. As a result of the workshop students explore writing for an audience other than just their teacher.

Learning how to critique. By receiving constructive criticism students can also learn how to make effective critiques themselves. Many students realize that the critiques they receive are not insulting or belittling but genuinely helpful, realizing the importance of writing for their readers.

Helps with clarity. A common student weakness is clarity. The only way to overcome many aspects of this is to test their paper on other readers.