

Making Comments on Drafts: Comment Like an Invested Reader

Raise questions or concerns as a reader.

These questions might **point out missing pieces** of the essay- for example, *Where is your thesis sentence?* More often, however, they are specific, addressing a weakness in very particular terms. For example:

- . *You introduction is missing a “roadmap,” or structural hint to guide the reader:*

What do you plan to argue about Bush's strengths and weaknesses as president?

Remarks are not always phrased as questions. Very often, a declarative sentence can **challenge a writer**, asking her to reconsider some aspect of her paper. For example:

- . *I'm not following the connection you seem to be making between presidential privilege and the downfall of the American political system.*
- . *I have no idea how this paragraph is related to your thesis. Revisit your topic sentences and your framing of evidence and revise accordingly.*

You might also find yourself **making suggestions**. If you make one suggestion, the writer may follow it without thinking; if you make several, he must consider them all and choose from them - or come up with an alternative.

- *You hint at several courses of action throughout the essay, yet you do not summarize them and their implications in the conclusion. Consider doing so. If you like your current ending too much to do this, then consider fully developing their implications within the body of the essay. In any case, to have a full argument, you need to more explicitly consider the implications of your proposed actions.*