



## Meeting with a SURF Peer Advisor

Tips for SURF Application Writers

### How to Prepare for your Meeting

- **Plan Ahead!** Schedule your meeting with a peer advisor well in advance of the actual deadline, so that you will have plenty of time to revise. If you are the kind of person who needs deadlines, your meeting can function as a deadline.
- **Bring two hard copies** of your draft to your meeting, so that you both have a copy
- Tell your peer advisor what *your* writing process is like and **explain where you are and what kind of feedback would be most helpful for you** at this point. Don't be afraid to ask questions if you aren't sure what your advisor is saying.

**Peer Critique Process** Know that your Peer Advisor has been trained to do the following things:

- Provide one **reader's perspective** in order to simulate your potential audience
- **Ask questions, offer strategies**—not provide definitive answers or secret tips for success
- Remind you that **writing is a series of choices** and point out where you might have made a different choice or ask you to explain the choice you made
- Help you move from the draft you've got to the draft you **want**
- **Read the draft out loud** or ask you to read it out loud
- Help you **brainstorm or revise** your work--not edit, proofread, or perfect your draft
- **Talk with you** about crucial elements such as argument, organization, clarity, and the quality/specificity of your ideas.

## Your Role

- Be an **active, engaged participant** and don't expect your peer advisor to do the work for you
- **Don't take it personally** if you come away with substantial revisions to make—it doesn't mean you had a bad proposal-- it just means your session was effective and you know what you need to revise
- Make sure you **write down the ideas** that you and your peer advisor discuss, so you don't forget them when you actually sit down to revise your paper. Leave the session with a **plan of action**

## After your session with a Peer Advisor

- Find a close friend to help you edit or proofread. You don't want to waste your peer advising session by fussing over punctuation and word choice issues. You do, however, want to submit the most polished draft possible. Take time to double-check your draft.



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 2.5 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.5/).

You may reproduce it for non-commercial use if you use the entire handout (just click print) and attribute the source:  
The Writing Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill