Expository Paper Critique Guidelines

Expository writing is a form of discourse that explains a particular idea or connection between ideas. When critiquing your classmates' papers, you will need to write a paragraph or two of typed feedback that includes your overall impressions of the paper, suggestions for changes, questions the writing evoked and summarizes the following points*:

1. What is the topic of the paper?
2. How clear and engaging is the introduction? If the introduction is not very engaging, how could it be improved?
3. How does the author support the main point of the paper? How well does the author do this?
4. Mark on the paper an example of a compelling sentence. What makes it a strong sentence?
5. Mark on the paper an example of a weak, unclear or uninteresting sentence. Why is the sentence ineffective and how could it be improved?
6. What are the main strengths of the essay? Write at least one specific point the author made well and cite an example.

7. What could be improved? Write at least one specific point the author needs to work on and cite an example.

8. What questions does the essay raise for you? Are there issues that could be dealt with by more attention to complexity and depth of analysis? Points that need further clarification?
9. Is the title reflective of the paper's topic and engaging? If not, what title would you give this paper that would both clarify the main idea and engage the reader?
10. Circle any of the following mechanical issues of writing that the author needs to work on:

Spelling   Apostrophes   Consistent verb tense   Punctuation

Sentence structure   Paragraph structure   Capitalization

When you turn in your final draft of the expository paper on Oct. 28, you need to staple to it one copy of your first draft as well as all comments from your peer critique group. Faculty will evaluate your final paper with an eye toward improvement from your first draft, the quality of feedback given to you from your peer critique group, and changes in your final draft that reflect some of that feedback.