Op-Ed Peer Critique

# Step One: Perspective

What is the perspective of this piece? Underline and star where you think their thesis is.

# Step Two: Reader Response

Read through the piece carefully. Then make 4 substantial (not just a word or two) annotations responding to the piece.

Your annotations could be about any of the following:

1. Places that make you feel an emotional connection to their argument, and what they did that helped you feel that connection
2. Where you get confused and why
3. Effective/ineffective evidence
4. Effective or powerful phrases, sentences, or word combinations
5. Places where they could improve their word choice, with suggestions
6. Questions you have as you read

# Step Three: Compare With the Pros

There is a list of Op-Ed common features on the board. You will need to use that list to give the following feedback. Write this on the back of their op-ed draft.

1. Choose one that they are doing well. Give them two specific examples/places in their op-ed where this is happening.
   1. *Example: In your second paragraph, you have the sentence, “Every one of us has the potential to be like this man.” This sentence does a really good job of being concise, but really dramatic so the reader is interested.*
2. Choose two they could be doing better. Give them a specific place in their op-ed piece, and give them a specific revision they should make to that place.
   1. *Example: Your fifth paragraph has two different ideas in it. You talk about the horrors of the genocide, but you also talk about how people resisted. You should split this into two different paragraphs after the third sentence, and make sure that the connection between the ideas is more clear.*

# Step 4: Answer Their Question

Answer the question they wrote at the top of their draft.

# Common Op-Ed Features

1. Shorter paragraphs
2. Concise writing
3. Each paragraph has one idea or topic
4. Punchy sentences that are engaging
5. Conclusion drives the point home
6. Evidence is used effectively throughout
7. There are different types of evidence used
8. Paragraphs transition smoothly from one to the next
9. Every paragraph supports the thesis