

The College Essay Experience

Step 8: Review Draft 2 (Content + Structure) Review Guidelines

The middle review focuses on content and structure. At this point it should be within the word count and moving toward its ultimate structure, though it might not be there quite yet.

Review Rubric

What did the student change/improve from the prior draft?

Where does the essay work well?

What could be improved? What could be done to improve clarity?

In the essay's margin, make comments and suggestions. Provide specific questions and recommendations, but do not edit the essay. Take a look back at the theme, the first draft and the interim writing exercises (Writing Outside the Essay and New Openings). If you think some of the original content could be used more effectively, point out how and where. Be very specific. If you find a lot of areas that need improvement, focus on a handful for the first review, give the student a day or two to revise, then repeat this step with additional suggestions.