

Kenyon College Natural Science Division
Summer Communication Groups
Week 4 – Draft workshop

Objective: Students get feedback on a short essay

Homework: Bring a 300-500 word draft of an essay describing your research to the general public

Main activity: Peer-review of drafts

Tool kit:

- Guidelines for peer review
 - Point out strengths first – this can be the most useful feedback
 - Focus on the “big picture” first, minor edits are fine but should be secondary
 - Discuss your reaction
 - Show your interest
 - “I want to know more about _____.”
 - “This peaked my interest”
 - Indicate areas of confusion
 - “I don’t understand what you mean by _____.”
 - “I can’t understand how ____ connects to _____.”
 - Ask questions
 - “Does this mean that _____?”
 - “How does this relate to _____?”
 - “Why did you decide to _____?”
- Edit
 - What are the one or two best parts of the essay? Revise with those as the focus.
 - Take a 500 word essay and condense to 300 words.
 - Read your own essay aloud.

Developed by Kenyon College faculty with support from the GLCA New Directions Initiative and the Kenyon College Provost’s Office.