Theme Peer Critique

Answer the following questions to improve your peer's essay. To make productive comments, you must be concrete – i.e., refer to specific passages in the paper and in the literary texts – and you must suggest changes. The questions following each number are meant to prime your thinking; do not answer any question yes/no. Make recommendations for how to improve each element. Remember our credo: *If you can't say something critical, don't say anything at all.*

1. **Introductory paragraph:** Do we learn about the topic and why it's interesting? Are all of the terms and claims adequately explained? Are we prepared to understand the significance of the thesis?

2. **Thesis:** Is it clearly stated and argumentative. How can you make it more interesting or complete?

3. **Topic sentences:** Is each one narrow and argumentative? Does it relate back to the thesis?

4. **Supporting arguments and textual support:** Are the topic sentences clarified? Are arguments linked to textual evidence through logical transitions? Is each quote relevant and properly introduce and punctuated?

5. **Summation sentences:** Each should expand the topic sentence without repeating it and provide a link to the next paragraph.

6. **Overall:** Is the paper persuasive? Too obvious? Make at least one global criticism.