Peer Review Workshop One

- The writer should read his or her paper out loud. While the writer reads, find the best way to focus on their writing. Close your eyes, follow along, whatever works best for you.

- Get an overall gut feeling for how the piece is organized, its Voice, its pacing, its use of detail.

- The readers can then read the paper on their own. You can CIRCLE misspelled words and UNDERLINE grammatical problems as you read.

- Then, discuss the paper as a group. THE WRITER WILL STAY SILENT FOR THIS DISCUSSION.

  - What are its strengths? BE SPECIFIC.

  - What is its core? What’s this writer going for?


  - Is this Voice working on behalf of the paper’s core—or against it?

  - What is its organizing principle? Is it structured in a way that the reader can enter and follow it?

  - Can you imagine a structure that would intensify the paper’s power?

  - Be specific about writerly strengths/weaknesses:

    - paragraphing?
    - paragraph organization and development?
    - vividness of language? use of good ole concrete detail?
    - clarity/incoherence of sentences
    - rhythm of sentences—is there variation in length, richness, terseness of sentences?

  - Has the paper gone far enough? What are you still wishing to hear and know?