

## Examples of good *reader-based* written response

Wow! This first paragraph reminds me of writing I'd see in Smithsonian magazine; it has captured my attention and aroused my curiosity. I want to read more.

Now I'm puzzled. How did we get from studying people to telling jokes?

What's this about fists and holding them horizontally? Oh, a rope. Neat visual image.

It's clear that the subject of the paper is Dr. Campbell, but other than that, it's not clear what direction the article is heading. Is there a way you could remedy this? [reaction to paragraphs 2 and 3]

I like the use of direct quotes; it gives me insight into the speaker.

My reaction throughout: sometimes there is too much detail, yet other times I want to know more. Have you considered the detail your target audience will need in order to "get your point(s)" versus detail that might detract from it?

This description of the Down East project is interesting (not dry as you feared!)...but I'm frustrated. After reading this section, I can't really say what happened in the project other than the mechanics. Can you clarify this part?

I laughed at the part about students rolling their eyes when asked to discuss material in small groups...some things never change!! 8-)

Have you thought about the educational background of your target audience and whether they will understand all terms or phrases used, including possible jargon?

The paper seems to end abruptly. When I read an article I like to see a concluding statement or statements that tie the portions of the article together, a sort of summary of what I've just read. Could you do something like that here?

I am confused about what the take-away message for the reader is. Is it related strictly to oceans? Or is it something else?

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[Student], your draft is a big change from the first one, and I think it hangs together better. I do get a feel for what Dr. Campbell is like, and reading your piece makes me want to meet her.

I hope my comments are helpful.

## Feedback on scientist profile written for Science and Nature Writing

### Some things to notice:

☞ The reader treats the student's work seriously as a text that aims to accomplish something, not just as a school assignment.

☞ The tone is interested, supportive, and even light-hearted at points, but the reader doesn't hold back from serious criticism either.

☞ The reader gives primarily 'I' comments, as in "I want to know more" or "I am confused." This gives the student-author valuable insight into their writing while keeping the decision-making in *their* hands.

The reader's comments are oriented toward the particular kind of writing the student is attempting here, rather than generic. This helps the student understand that different