

Examples of good *reader-based* written response

First draft Feedback on Grant Proposal for Child Clinical Interventions

Specific Aims

The prevalence of depressive disorders in adolescents is between 4 and 8% in the general population. About 20% of adolescents experience a depressive episode by age 18 (Diamond 107). Youth who experience environmental stressors are also at a greater risk for Family stress has shown to be a mediator between poverty and the depressed mood of adolescents, yet not enough studies have effectively shown family therapy as a way to decrease depression in African-American adolescents.

An intervention focused on reducing family stress and increasing positive familial interactions would be beneficial in decreasing the risk of depression ... Since this therapy program targets risk factors associated with depression, including parental and family stress, it may be beneficial to cater the program towards African-American adolescents with depression as well.

Specific Aim 1: To assess the efficacy of Attachment Based Family Therapy with inner city African-American adolescents.

Hypothesis 1: African-American adolescents who successfully complete the therapy sessions will experience lower symptoms of depression and reduced rates of depression compared to the control group's scores after the intervention.

Specific Aim 2: To assess the efficacy of Attachment Based Family Therapy with parents of inner city African-American adolescents.

Hypothesis 2: African American parents who successfully complete the therapy sessions will experiences lower symptoms of stress and distress compared to the control group.

Comment [S1]: I was feeling really led by your strong arguments about studying this group and interested that family stress is a mediator. I felt a little confused when you jumped quickly to family therapy as treatment without first helping me understand what has been tried and why family therapy is what you're interested in looking at.

Comment [S2]: I found myself wanting to have heard earlier about Attachment Based Family Therapy and the effects on depression so I could have understood why you're interested in family therapy. The last sentence lost me a bit. I wasn't clear how what you are proposing is different from the other study using Attachment Based Family Therapy.

Comment [S3]: I found myself wondering how these were different. Is there a cutoff above which you will define the person as depressed?

Comment [S4]: This applies to Specific Aim 1 as well: I was confused about whether you were going to define your intervention group as all inner city AA adolescents or just ones with symptoms of depression and/or stress and distress in the parents?

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 and supportive, but the reader doesn't hold back from serious criticism either. She focuses on big picture stuff on this early draft, rather than grammar or style details.
- ☞ The reader gives primarily 'I' comments, as in "I was really feeling led by your arguments," or "I was confused about...." This gives the student-author valuable insight into their writing while keeping the decision-making in *their* hands.