

Assignment type: *Essay or project*

Source: *University of Denver Writing (Retrieved April 21, 2017 from <http://duwriting.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Writing-Resources-for-DU-Faculty-February-2010-3.pdf> (p. 23)*

Narrative Peer Response

You may prefer not to have students answer specific individual questions about a classmate's draft but, instead, provide a more sustained response. I often give students a broad set of directions to create and extended response. One approach that's very useful is to assign students to respond in a certain role. That way, especially if they have critiques, they enjoy the cover of speaking in a persona and not as a classmate. Following is an example of this kind of assignment, with two actual student responses.

Letter to a classmate about her or his draft of Project 5. I'll pair you up with another student. Your task in this letter is to respond in the role of someone who disagrees with the author of the paper; explain as carefully as you can why you disagree. State your own arguments and explain why they lead to a different conclusion. Now, I want you to be polite about this; don't indulge in extreme partisan rhetoric of the kind we looked at earlier in the quarter. However, to be helpful to the author you should be as persuasive as possible—even if you're playing a role that you actually disagree with. Send this letter by email, with a copy to me (dhesse@du.edu).

 Stephen
 WRIT-1122
 March 3, 2007
 Hesse

Letter to Leslie.

To begin with I thought your paper was very thorough and well thought out. It was lengthy and covered all the important things you needed to. But as the point of this assignment is to disagree and offer constructive criticism there are some things that I think would help clarify and convince your readers who are on the fence to your position.

You use a lot of statistics and surveys in your paper. This is good, it added credibility and "scientific reasoning's" but when I see these I wonder where did you find these studies and are they themselves factual? You reiterated multiple times that in abstinence only education they will use statistics that are untrue or slanted to favor there position. How does the reader know that you haven't made these facts up or slanted them in your favor? My suggestion would be to label your studies and who they came from. If one of them is from a government agency, you can include the address so if the reader wanted to they could verify the facts that you offer. I'm not accusing you of doing this but it would only make your paper more believable.

You stated on page two that the SAM review found that consensual acts of sex between two young kids had no mental health effects on them. I whole heartily disagree with this point. Regardless of age and relationship status of the two parties involved someone always gets hurt when a sexual act occurs. If there was a relationship before, it has the potential to be destroyed due to the baggage related to close sexual acts. If one of the parties involved uses it as a one night stand and the other person really liked the other, he or she suffers emotional distress that could be extreme. Also, do you know if the study you used includes guys/girls that have suffered sexual abuse or single parent families? I know many girls who's father has left them and they seek that affection through random hookups and always receive heartache. This continued self abuse has to hurt them mentally. Further more, what is the SAM review? Also on page six you included an excerpt from a study that talked about depression. When I read the excerpt I was confused. "...who were not depressed at baseline and who acquired an STD between wave I and wave II...." Since we didn't do the research for your topic, its necessary for you to explain your sources as I mentioned in the first paragraph.

I received my first taste of sexual education when I was in fifth grade. I knew that what we were learning was something weird and interesting, I remember my teacher giving the permission slip and telling us that if we didn't want to take part in sex ed. we were to be assigned an alternative assignment. Even though I had no idea what I was getting myself into I knew that I didn't want to be the weird kid who was doing the alternative assignment. You mentioned that that sexual education could make kids feel weird and uncomfortable but at the same time if they don't participate in it, they will be ostracized by their fellow students for not participating. I know that if any kid was in high school and their parents said no to sexual education they stood a good chance to be made fun of.

Because I am a strong believer in no sex before marriage its difficult for me to make more thorough points for you to use. I think that sex before marriage causes more problems then it solves and that most people know that condoms are very effective. It is a personal choice and I do believe that giving out sexual education can encourage

people to engage in sexual acts before they are ready and should have more facts to encourage students to participate in sexual acts till marriage or at least until they are older (18yrs+) to limit the amount of emotional trauma they receive which no study can find.

Dear Stephen,

It is apparent that you have a true feeling for what you are writing about, yet your obvious opinions create a lack of credibility. I find myself asking, how can I trust that what the author is saying is more than just opinion? You do not cite your facts about affirmative action—the percentages could easily be made up for the purpose of supporting your argument.

You write about the potential that the lack of the men in professional fields such as medical and aeronautical could have on our nation—and potentially the world. I have to ask—would not the lack of men in such professions be easily filled by women who can do the job just as well? You say, “not to say that women cannot take on this position,” but that is exactly what you *are* saying. If a woman were to go to a school for the same study as a man—mechanics for example—wouldn't she be just as qualified for the position? Or does her gender affect her ability to perform?

I have reason to question your information sources—how do you know that men are not being admitted into schools? Where did you find your statistical evidence? Yes, the lack of *people* in collage—and therefore getting an education—may increase the rate of crime, but where do you find the evidence to suggest that men commit the majority of crimes? How does this point relate to your argument?

Without men as political leaders, will we be in a very bad place as you say? What is to say that it wouldn't be a *better* place if the educated women of society were able to make political decisions rather than the men who have been controlling political systems since the beginning? It may well be time for a change as drastic as this one. For example, war after war has been begun and lead by male politicians, yet what have we learned or gained from any of them? Other than a select few, wars have proven to be costly—in dollars and human life—and lacking in beneficial purpose.

Where do you get the idea that men will be so scarce in collages that it would effect the athletic programs? Wouldn't a school not still try to recruit male athletes to fill the spots on their teams? They do not necessarily chose from the people they accept rather than chose from the potential students for their school. Even if you were to say that men are less often accepted into school than women, it is still the desire, or lack there of, for men to apply to and attend school that will create an effect as you suggest.

Also, how does a school benefit from not admitting men into their school? Are you suggesting that it is in the interest of schools to have an all-female student body or a student body dominated by female students? Shouldn't it be their interest to preserve balance in gender in their school? Could it be that women are doing more to be accepted into college and that they are in fact more qualified than men to attend school? Your arguments need further research—they are not credible.

Sincerely,
Leslie