



TEACHING TOLERANCE

A PROJECT OF THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER
TOLERANCE.ORG

Giving Constructive Feedback

One of the most effective ways to get helpful feedback from your peers is to let them know what you expect from their review. Let's say when you were writing you had a difficult time with the conclusion. You couldn't figure out how to best conclude. Knowing that you had difficulty writing, gives you some ideas on what specifically to ask of your reviewer. Before your reviewer reads the paper, you might ask something like this:

“When reading my paper, I'd appreciate if you would let me know your thoughts on whether you found it engaging and interesting. And, specifically, I'd appreciate if you shared with me what you think of my conclusion. Is it effective? Does it make you reflect on my position?”

Use these general reader questions with a paper you're working on now:

What is your reaction to my paper?

What am I trying to tell you?

What do I most want you to learn?

What are this paper's greatest strengths?

Does it have any major weaknesses?

What suggestions do you have to make the paper better?

Use these questions to get perspectives on the overall meaning of a paper you're working on now:

Do you understand everything?

Is there information missing from this draft that you still need or want to know?

Does my paper share anything new with you or does it restate what's already obvious?

Am I trying to cover too much or too little?

Do you think there are enough details and enough personal experiences?
