Peer Review

You will soon receive a paper from a peer-review partner, either in class or electronically. You should read your partner’s paper carefully, providing as many comments / corrections / observations / inquiries as you can. Then, after you’ve marked up your partner’s paper, answer the following questions about it—it sometimes helps to conceptualize the paper as a living body, composed of bones (the underlying structure), muscles (the textual support and logic of the argument), and skin (style, grammar). Remember: your comments can have a serious impact on the author’s final product (for better or worse); you are, in short, partially responsible for your partner’s final grade. Be honest, but be careful about “You should...”-type statements – peer review is about your impressions of and responses to the paper as a reader, not a writer. Two central questions to keep in mind as you’re working are: 1) What is the writer trying to say/argue in this piece? and 2) How can s/he make that argument more effective and persuasive?

Bones

1. What, in your own words, is the thesis statement or argument of the paper?

2. What are the main supporting points for this argument? Is the argument convincing?

Muscles

3. Textual support: has the author provided evidence from the text to support his/her argument? Do the chosen citations (or textual “facts”) firmly support the argument being made? Mark any problem areas on the draft.

4. Are there any unclear / ambiguous / confusing / illogical areas in the paper? If so, which?

5. Which, if any, areas of the paper could be expanded? Cut?

Skin

6. What is your favorite sentence in this paper? Why?
TAP: Necropolis!
Due Friday, 10/21 in class

Reviewer _________________________________

Author _________________________________