**MODEL PEER REVIEW: FOCUSED REVIEW FOR LONGER PAPERS**

**from DR. SNYDER’S POLITICAL SCIENCE CLASS**

In order to conserve time and to make your work as targeted and helpful as possible, I’m asking you to review only particular sectionsof your peer’s work. If at any point you lose your way in the document, please ask the author for direction.

Exchange papers with your peer review partner. **With pen in hand, read the following sections of your partner’s paper, paying attention to the questions I’ve listed. When a sentence or claim seems unclear to you, or you “trip” while reading it, mark the passage with a question mark in the margin. If anything seems especially clear or well said, mark it with a check.** Once you’ve completed your reading and this worksheet, you will add your final comments and circle those items your colleague should focus on in revision.

First, please read the **introductory section** of your partner’s essay – that is, everything from the very beginning to the literature review. In this section:

1) Does the author give **reason for why the general topic is important** or interesting?

2) Does the author give a ***broad overview* of the current state of scholarship** on their topic – a single sentence, summarizing how political science is talking about the issue *right now*?

3) Identify the passage(s) where the author “**carves out a niche**” for their own work, by indicating omissions, oversights, contradictions or assumptions in the current scholarship.

4) Finally, find **the author’s main claim** – the argument their overall paper is making. Is it understandable, clearly related to the topic and the scholarship, and written in one or (at most) two sentences?

Next, please read the **first and last paragraphs of the literature review**: the paragraphs or passages where the author introduces *all* of the sources they’ll be citing, and where the author relates the ideas to his or her own argument.

5) Is it clear that the author has ***grouped* related critics together, or *linked* each one** to his or her thesis (synthesis, not summary)?

6) Either at the beginning or end of the literature review, **does the author carefully relate his or her argument to the criticism?**

Please read the first paragraph of the case study section.

7) Does the author make a strong case for **why the case is relevant** to the topic at hand? Is the case study **linked to the author’s main claim, and to the literature review** that preceded it? Does the author indicate **what the case study proves or illustrates** (that is, the *topic* of this section)**?**

Please review the conclusion.

8) Does the author **restate his or her *main claim****,* and is that claim clearly **related to the scholarship** (literature review) and **to the case study**? Does the author make a case for the **importance or relevance of his or her own work**? Does the paper “wrap up” gracefully, without an abrupt ending?

Finally, please circle the numbers of any items you thought could use additional revision, and write here those issues the author might tighten, clarify or improve. The author will leave with this worksheet, so please give him or her any information she or he will need to revise later on.