

Peer-Review Guidelines

You know that when you read another student's paper with a view to offering helpful feedback, you should look for clarity, good organization, grammatical correctness, substantive accuracy, and other familiar virtues of paper-writing. I'd like for you to pay further, and particular, attention to *signposting*—the practice of giving the reader explicit information about the overall structure of the paper. Signposting, when done well, appears both at the beginning of the paper and at various places throughout. Here are some questions to consider in order to guide your assessment of the paper for good signposting:

1. Near the beginning of the paper, does the author say anything like the following?

“The main point of this paper is that . . .”

“The goal of this paper is to show that . . .”

2. Soon after that, does the author say anything like the following?

“This paper is organized in the following way: . . .”
[followed by an account of the tasks to be completed]

“In order to accomplish this goal, I will do the following: . . .”
[followed by an account of the tasks to be completed]

3. At various points in the paper, does the author say things like the following?

“Having just [description of task just completed],
I will now proceed to [description of task to be done next].”

“I have just finished [description of task just completed].
Now I want to turn to [description of task to be done next].”