



## PEER EDITING WORKSHEET: Definition

1. What term is the writer defining? Does the essay include a formal definition? If so, where? If no formal definition is included, should one be added?
2. Why is the writer defining the term? Does the essay include a thesis statement that makes this purpose clear? If not, suggest revisions.
3. What patterns does the writer use to develop the definition? What other patterns could be used? Would a visual be helpful?
4. Does the essay define the term appropriately for its audience? Does the definition help you understand the meaning of the term?
5. Does the writer use **synonyms** to develop the definition? If so, where? If not, where could synonyms be used to help communicate the term's meaning?
6. Does the writer use **negation** to develop the definition? If so, where? If not, could the writer strengthen the definition by explaining what the term is not?
7. Does the writer use **enumeration** to develop the definition? If so, where? If not, where might the term's special characteristics be listed?
8. Does the writer use **analogies** to develop the definition? If so, where? Do you find these analogies helpful? What additional analogies might help readers understand the term more fully?
9. Does the writer explain the term's origin and development? If so, where? If not, do you believe this information should be added?
10. Reread the essay's introduction. If the writer uses a formal definition as an opening strategy, try to suggest an alternative opening.