Mary Ellen Bertolini Center for Teaching, Learning & ResearchMiddlebury College Paper Three, Draft One: Coherence and Emphasis

**Title:** Paper Topic: #\_\_\_\_\_ Read the papers aloud, and discuss briefly. Then concentrate on the opening paragraph, the concluding paragraph and one other paragraph of your choice.

### 1. The Introductory Paragraph

# Does the title fit the paper? Does it encourage you to read the paper?

Does the first sentence catch the reader's attention? If so, how? If not, suggest another opening sentence.

Write the thesis sentence here:

Analyze the thesis statement.

Does it deal with the most important issue in the paper? Does it unify the paper? What can you suggest to improve/strengthen the thesis statement?

## 2. A Sample Paragraph

Look carefully at any one paragraph in the paper. Identify the topic sentence. Does this paragraph build directly on the one before? Does it lead smoothly to the next?

## **TOPIC SENTENCE**

*Does the topic sentence relate to the thesis statement? Does the topic sentence unite the paragraph?* 

Now look closely at each sentence in the paragraph. Does the information in the beginning of the sentence look back < <----(refer to old information)? Does the information at the end of the sentence look ahead-----> > refer to new information)? Identify the direction of each part of each sentence in this paragraph:

Do the beginnings of sentences look back to older, less important, easier to understand information? -

Do the endings of sentences look ahead to newer, more important, more difficult information?  $\rightarrow$ 

### 3. The Concluding Paragraph

*Is the thesis statement proved here with specific information?* If **so**, *where?* 

*Have points from the topic sentence been integrated into the conclusion?* 

*Does the conclusion take the reader ONE STEP MORE?* If so, *where?* 

*Does the paper end with a bang?* If not, suggest improvements.