GRAMMAR PEER WORKSHOPS

To help students train their proofreading eye, students proofread their classmates’ papers in a peer workshop setting. The following is a brief description of how I structure a Grammar Peer Workshop:

1. Peer Workshop is split into two half-class sessions: Session One focuses only on content. Students then take their paper home and make any revisions or edits necessary so that they are only looking for grammar and proofreading in Session 2. Students bring to class one copy of their new draft.

2. Students sit in long rows, facing one another. Students switch papers with the person sitting directly across from them.

3. Everyone begins proofreading his or her partner’s paper, starting with the conclusion, or last paragraph. Students take about 4-5 minutes to mark any corrections that they see in the last paragraph only.

4. Students spend 3-4 minutes discussing the suggestions and corrections; then, students take their own essays back.

5. Students rotate to a new partner, and switch papers. Students begin with the second-to-last paragraph. Now, the students are reading the essay out of context, which helps them focus on grammar only.

6. Students repeat this process (new partner for each paragraph, mark corrections, discuss, switch) for each paragraph.

7. When all paragraphs are complete, student spend a few moments reviewing their paper, asking for clarification from other classmates or the instructor.

8. Students use this draft to make corrections for their final draft, due the next class session.