Belcher Journal Article Review Feedback Form

The following questions will help you comment on the article you are reviewing. Your answers should guide the author in revising his or her work. You may not find all the questions relevant to reviewing the article that you're reading, especially if you're not in the same field; use what is useful.

General

What are the strengths of this article?

Content

Does the author state the argument of the article early and clearly? If not, where might this be done?

What is the argument of the article (so far as you understand it)?

Does the author make claims for significance in the article? If not, where might they be added?

What are the claims for significance of the article (so far as you understand them)?

Does the author situate the article well within the scholarly literature? If not, how might this be done?

Which scholarly debates is the author addressing (so far as you understand them)?

Does the author describe the methods comprehensively and concisely? If not, what needs to be added?

Could the author's argument be better supported with evidence? If so, specify where and how.

Did you notice any errors in sources, dates, quotations, facts, or proper names? If so, note them.

Organization

Do the article's first few paragraphs draw the reader in? If not, what might make them more compelling?

Does the article need more or better subheads? If so, which ones need to be revised, and where should additional ones be placed?

Does the author raise questions that go unanswered? If so, specify where.

Were any parts of the article repetitive or digressive? If so, specify where.

Are there any unclear or missing transitions? If so, specify where.

Was there any section in which you lost interest? If so, specify where, and what might have held your interest better.

Did any sections go on too long? If so, specify which ones.

Does the conclusion summarize the article? If not, specify what might tie it together.

Is the argument organizing the article (or is the evidence problematically running the show)?

Contribution (if reviewer and author are in the same field/discipline)

Does the article add new and valuable information and insight to scholarship?

Will the article appeal to the general readers of a journal?

Is the argument justified, given the findings and evidence?

Are the claims for significance justified, given the findings and evidence? If not, how might they be improved?

General

What did you find most intriguing about this article?