Brainstorming in groups for Paper 3
Chris Potts, Writing 1, Spring 2003
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The goal of this group meeting is to provide authors with thoughts, insights, and opinions that can help them to sit down and bang out a solid, rich draft for Paper 3.

One of the hardest things for an author to do effectively is imagine how a contrary argument might go and then attempt to dispel it. Peer readers can usually do this more easily, because they have less invested in the success of the paper’s position. So, as peer readers, try to spend some time acting like staunch critics.

The questions below are just to get you started. They are not supposed to provide a fixed structure for your conversation or place limits on it. Please don’t let them do this!

**Questions that peer readers might ask authors**

1. What is the paper’s central claim?
2. Why are you the right person for this job? (It’s essential for an author to be able to answer this question. If an answer is not readily apparent, then the author should devise one and believe in it. Perhaps peer readers can help with this if necessary.)
3. What kinds of evidence and argumentation do you plan to use to support your claim?
4. What is your ideal outside source? What fact or argument would establish once and for all that your position is correct? (Perhaps imagine yourself in an ideal world, not the actual world.)
5. What kind of style might work best for this piece?
6. How would you begin the paper? Can you envision an opening paragraph that hooks the reader?

**Questions that authors might ask peer readers**

7. If you were writing about this topic, what claim would you make? Where would you look to find supporting evidence and arguments?
8. Can you imagine any personal, social, or intellectual factors that would absolutely prevent a person from endorsing my position?
9. How might a critic of my position most easily launch an attack?
10. I’ve told you why I’m the right person for this job. How might I use those facts in the paper?