

## STUDENT SELF-EVALUATION

The following activities help students develop self-evaluation skills.

### ***PAMDISS: A Way to Reflect upon Your Own Prose***

*This is a handy self-evaluation guide to help students critique their own writing. It is more inclusive than many other self-assessments. It requires students to reflect thoughtfully, not just upon what they may have written, but upon why they have chosen to write it that way.*

**Directions to Students:** Writers spend time thinking about their own writing. **PAMDISS** gives you the power to justify *how* you wrote your piece. In complete sentences, answer each of the following sets of questions/prompts thoughtfully.

- **Purpose**: What was your purpose for writing? What did you want your readers to understand or think about after reading what you have written?
- **Audience**: What assumptions have you consciously made about your readers' experience with and knowledge of this topic?
- **Mode (exposition, argumentation, narration, or description)**: Briefly explain how you used one secondary mode in addition to your primary mode and how this strategy was especially useful and effective. If you used only one mode in your essay, explain why this strategy was the better choice.
- **Diction**: List two specific word choices you made to convey your attitude toward your subject or to make a subtle point. What other word choices had you considered in these instances?
- **Images/Concrete Detail**: Select one sentence that illustrates your effective use of imagery. Briefly explain why you think your use of concrete detail is effective in this part of your writing.
- **Syntax**: Identify one or more sentences that illustrate how you deliberately manipulated either the sentence structure, rhythm, or length. Then, briefly explain your reason for doing so.
- **Structure**: Briefly explain why you constructed the piece of writing the way you did. Why did you start the way you did? What internal logic is there to the way the ideas in your body paragraphs move from one to the next? Why did you end the way you did? Did you wish to surprise, perplex, or provoke your audience in some part of your essay's structure?