

STUDY  
CASE

# How 9th Grade English Teachers Used PAPER's Essay Review to Get More A's

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*"The students who don't submit to Paper are getting C's and D's. And the students who are submitting to Paper are getting A's and B's."*

**Christina King**

*Woodbrige High School Teacher*

# At a glance

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IRVINE UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Enrollment

**35,291** <sup>[1]</sup>

Socioeconomically  
Disadvantaged

**18.7%** <sup>[1]</sup>

English Learners

**19.7%** <sup>[1]</sup>



WOODBIDGE  
HIGH SCHOOL

Enrollment

**2,466** <sup>[2]</sup>

Socioeconomically  
Disadvantaged

**21.7%** <sup>[2]</sup>

English Learners

**8.4%** <sup>[2]</sup>

- At Woodbridge High School (Irvine USD, CA), 9th graders were struggling with essay writing and peer reviewing.
- To learn what good writing and editing should look like, Ms. King and her 9th grade English team required students to use Paper's Essay Review feature.
- Viewing corrections and annotations from expert tutors on their essays allowed students to improve their future assignments and peer reviews.
- Teachers have since seen their students' grades increase, while also lightening their own workload.
- "The students who don't submit to Paper are getting C's and D's. And the students who are submitting to Paper are getting A's and B's," Ms. King reported.

# The Dilemma

## *Essay Writing & Peer Reviewing Not Up to Par*

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“We were basically asking ourselves, ‘Do we think that 9th graders have the ability to give each other quality feedback?’” Christina King recalled on a call with the Paper team.

Ms. King is an English teacher, English Language Development Specialist, and the lead of the English 1 team at Woodbridge High School in Irvine, California.

Her team recognized that their 9th graders were struggling with peer review assignments.

In re-assessing their approach to peer review, Ms. King suggested the team lean on Paper’s Essay Review as an instructional tool.



***We actually found the benefit of using Paper was that the students could see what feedback is supposed to look like.***

Having taught middle school as a part of her training, Christina King understands that the expectations are significantly higher once students enter high school. “At the end of the freshman year, they need to be ready for sophomore year, where teachers expect that they have certain skills, and won’t have to spend their instructional minutes teaching the kids how to peer review.”

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**Mindful of what students need and what their teachers will expect next year, Ms. King innovated how peer reviewing was taught in 9th grade English: take advantage of Paper’s Essay Review.**

# The Solution

## *Incorporating Essay Review & Its Dividends*

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Thanks to the corrections and annotations made by Paper tutors, first-year English students at Woodbridge would have examples to model their future assignments after.

While Ms. King and her team have figured out a way to use Paper for the students' long-term development, this method has seen immediate returns as well.



***The kids who generally submit their work to Paper get about 10 % better on their essay. Somebody's eyes are looking at it before mine.***

"It just forces students to do that one extra step of thinking about what they've done," she said. That extra step of submitting written work to Paper may save certain students from getting marked down for minor

errors, like comma splices, missed capitalization, incorrect formatting, and run-on sentences. This extra step may also alert students if they haven't quite filled the essay prompt's requirements.

Regardless of what each student gets out of submitting essays to Paper, the results are hard to argue with:



***The students who don't submit to Paper are getting C's and D's and the students who are submitting to Paper are getting A's and B's.***

Ms. King notes that some of the biggest benefactors of this new strategy are also the teachers themselves, as Paper helped to lighten their workload:

"I have four English classes, and that's 110 students. I can't read all those essays; it would literally take me 110 hours. I'm probably only able to spend about 10 minutes on a paper total."



***I can't give each individual the feedback that would be helpful for their growth as often as I'd like. If some of that load is distributed through Paper, that's huge.***

# About Paper's Essay Review

Students can upload any written work to Paper's Essay Review section and, within 24 hours, Paper tutors review it and upload an annotated copy. First, they screen it for plagiarism. Then, they leave feedback related to content, structure, and grammar.

When reviewing essays, our tutors never rewrite for students. They'll point out things like run-on sentences or quotes that were incorrectly cited. They also make sure what's written successfully fulfills the prompt's requirements, guiding the student to a clear, cohesive essay.

For example, if the assignment requires at least three citations in MLA format, tutors will look to ensure the students have fulfilled these requirements with the correct formatting. If a student knows they have trouble with comma splices, they can also request that the tutor pay extra close attention to how they are linking independent clauses.

With unlimited access to essay review, Paper is an extra set of eyes when you need it.



# **PAPER**

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