



BLOM WRITING SERVICES

PROOF READING SERVICES

Editing ♦ Tutoring ♦ Copywriting

www.blomwritingservices.com

706.402.5301

SAMPLES OF EDITORIAL FEEDBACK

(Please note that the amount of information or direct involvement our editors will have depends on whether or not the client is a student since we can, ethically, only provide a limited amount of assistance to students. It will also depend upon the other specific needs and goals of each client. The extent and direction of editorial feedback will always be tailored to the specific needs of each client. Included below are two pieces of writing on which our editors have provided editorial feedback. For each document, the editor provided comments within the text and closing comments at the end of each document.)

Sample 1

While reading the accounts on Hannah Dustin, particularly the Mather and Whittier, I noticed an inclination to preserve the ideals of Puritan femininity. Despite Hannah Dustin's very brutish murders, many of these accounts seem to offset them by demonizing the natives, or simply downplaying her role altogether, consequently amplifying the role of the men involved. How Hannah Dustin's gender comes into play in the majority of these male written records of her experience shows the reader the irregularity and thus perplexity of her behavior in the male mindset. In its simplest form, Hannah Dustin is a story of captivity and revenge, however, embellished with the details and speculations of our authors, it becomes a justification, rationalizing a story that is evidence of the not so wide gap between men and women. Although all of our authors do not attempt to reconstruct Hannah's character as typically feminine, Sewall, Mather, Carver, Whittier, Hawthorne, and Thoreau, still retell a women's experience, and in

Comment [peb1]: These accounts offset them by doing two things: demonizing or downplaying. This is a list of two actions, so you don't need a comma to join them.

Comment [peb2]: Could you rephrase this sentence to avoid the "How..."? What about: "The ways in which" or restructuring the sentence altogether?

Comment [peb3]: Is this the title of the story? If so, it needs to be in quotation marks (or italics if it's a novel). If it's not the actual title, could you change it to "Hannah Dustin's story"?

Comment [peb4]: I'm not sure what the purpose of this comma is.

Comment [peb5]: Again, this comma does not appear to be necessary. The authors retell and allow us... This is another list of two things and so you don't need a comma.



BLOM WRITING SERVICES

PROOF READING & REVISIONS

Editing ♦ Tutoring ♦ Copywriting

www.blomwritingservices.com

706.402.5301

doing so allow us to peek into the conscience of these male Puritans in order to better understand gender identity in the 17th and 18th century.

Recorded in his diary in 1697, Samuel Sewall's brief narrative was the first and most straightforward account of Dustin's captivity, but barely gave the reader any indication of Hannah's character at all. Instead of focusing on the Dustin's, Sewall focuses on the men in the story, specifically the captive Samuel Lenardson and the native that would be her master. Although his writing seems to withhold a personal opinion, he makes a point to write the natives religious preference, saying, "He told her, that when he prayed [in] the English way, he thought that was good: but now he found the French way better," (Sewall, 344) considering the rivalry between the French, who represented Catholicism, and the British, who represented Puritan beliefs, this conversion was most likely offensive to the Puritan legislator and consequently would justify Hannah's...

...

Ironically, this account serves as a better disguise of Hannah's brutality than the more detailed 18th century accounts, which push her gender to the forefront with their justifications for her.

...

Again, arriving to the part in the plot where Thomas takes his flee, abandoning Hannah and their infant, Hawthorne covers up his indiscretion at once, stating, "At this

Comment [peb6]: Be sure to reread your paper carefully for little errors like misplaced commas and misspellings. I think here you mean "century."

Comment [peb7]: You've switched now from "Dustin" with an "i" to Dustin with an "a."

Comment [peb8]: You only need a comma with a coordinating conjunction (and, or, for, but, yet, so) if you're using the conjunction to join two independent clauses (two things that could each stand alone as complete sentences).

Comment [peb9]: Remember that possessives need apostrophes.

Comment [peb10]: MLA does not want a comma in between the author's last name and the page number. Furthermore, a period should follow the ending parenthesis since this is the end of the sentence; ..." (Sewall 344). Considering...

Comment [peb11]: This appears to be the beginning of a new sentence, so you need the proper punctuation and capitalization.

Comment [peb12]: This entire paragraph is a page long, which is quite lengthy for a single paragraph. Is there any way you can break this into separate paragraphs? Is there a place somewhere in this paragraph where you shift to a slightly different idea?



BLOM WRITING SERVICES

PROOF READING & REVISIONS

Editing ♦ Tutoring ♦ Copywriting

www.blomwritingservices.com

706.402.5301

terrible instant, it appears that the thought of his children's danger rushed so powerfully upon his heart, that he quite forgot the still more perilous situation of his wife; or, as is not improbable, he had such knowledge of the good lady's character, as afforded him a comfortable hope that she would hold her own, even in a contest with a whole tribe of **Indians.**" (Hawthorne) This justification, which states that Thomas Dustan on impulse sought the safety of his legacy and was thus blinded to the danger Hannah was in, or that he knew her "good character", would ensure her safety. When considering the good character he speaks of is assumed as a result of killing and scalping a Native American family, this assertion conflicts with not only Puritan beliefs, but also **the gender conventions of the 18th century, which viewed women as a symbol of humanity, compassion and virtue.**

...

Although historians such as Barbra cutter assert that it wasn't until the eighteenth century that women embodied peace, **it is evident through Cotton Mather and Jonathon Carvers 17th century accounts that there were still gender norms in place to which Hannah Dustan's behavior did not subscribe.**

Comment [peb13]: In MLA, any quotation that is four full lines or longer, like this one, has to be a block quote. For more information, go to the following page: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/03/>, and look at the information under the heading "Long Quotations."

Comment [peb14]: Do you have any actual evidence that these were the gender conventions of the 18th century?

Comment [peb15]: Why do you choose to end your paper with a focus on these two accounts and with a focus on the 17th century. The ending of your introduction focuses on both the 17th and 18th centuries and on all of the accounts?



BLOM WRITING SERVICES

PROOF READING & REVISIONS

Editing ♦ Tutoring ♦ Copywriting

www.blomwritingservices.com

706.402.5301

Closing Comments

Hi -----,

I think you're off to a strong start with this paper. You do a good job of pulling apart these different accounts and analyzing the various ways in which the gender of Dustin is emphasized/deemphasized and how it is treated in general. Remember to go back and reread your paper carefully for proper punctuation and spelling because I noticed many inconsistencies that appear to be typos. Personally, it helps me to read the paper out loud when I'm proofreading my own work. This might also help you with some instances of awkward or unclear phrasing and sentence structure. I can't point out each and every issue since you are a student.

I also suggest you look at your paragraphs, most of which are quite long. A paragraph should be a set of sentences that are all focused on a single idea. Each of your body paragraphs focuses on a specific account of this story, but could you break each of these into two paragraphs? In a lot of these, you begin by talking only about the account and what you see in it. Later in each paragraph, you begin to compare it to other accounts. Perhaps this change would be a good place to separate your paragraphs.

Overall, the organization makes sense, although I'm quite concerned about your thesis. I'm not entirely sure what your thesis is in this paper. You compare several accounts of the same story, and you have many points about each work, but what is the overall point? What is the main thing you are arguing or trying to convince your reader? You need to explicitly state this somewhere in your introduction and return to that idea in your conclusion. I think it's implied in your text, but it would help to make it clearer and more specific.

Finally, I suggest you check out some helpful links on MLA format. In-text citations should only provide the author's last name, followed by a space and then the page number. If you mention the name of the author of an outside source in your text, you don't need to include the author's name in the in-text citation. Remember to include a works cited page listing all of the sources you've cited in your paper. For more information, check out the [Purdue OWL's page on MLA citations](#) or [Diana Hacker's page on MLA](#). Both of these sites show you how to cite a source in the text of your paper and in your Works Cited Page. They also provide sample papers so you can see how it all comes together.

I've enjoyed reading your paper and I wish you the best of luck as you continue to revise. If you have time, we could always meet face-to-face to discuss this further or chat online. Good work so far and good luck with the rest!

Sincerely,
Paul



BLOM WRITING SERVICES

PROOF READING REVISIONS

Editing ♦ Tutoring ♦ Copywriting

www.blomwritingservices.com

706.402.5301

Sample 2

Works Cited

Stallings, Richard. "Nuclear Reaction: Why do Americans Fear Nuclear

Power?" *Frontline*. 28 February 2010

<<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/reaction/interviews/stallings.html> >.

United States Department of Energy. *Budget and Funding*.

http://www.ocrwm.doe.gov/about/budget_and_funding.shtml.

11 February 2010. 15 February 2010.

United States Department of Energy. *Why Do Scientists Think a*

Repository Will Work?

<http://www.ocrwm.doe.gov/factsheets/doeymp0004.shtml>.
November 2004. 15 February 2010.

United States Department of Energy. *Overview: Yucca Mountain*

Project.

<http://www.ocrwm.doe.gov/factsheets/doeymp0026.shtml>.
November 2003. 15 February 2010.

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission. *Radioactive Waste:*

An Introduction. 27 August 2009.

Comment [peb16]: In 2009, MLA came out with its 7th edition and has made some significant changes. I'll point these out in my comments. Remember, however, that some professors have special requests for citations. Sometimes they want their own version of MLA, so read your syllabus and assignment sheet carefully to see if they specify that they want anything that's a bit different. Always adhere to your professors' wishes in these matters.

Comment [peb17]: The title of the Works Cited should not be bolded or underlined. It should just be written out normally and centered. The entire works cited page should be double-spaced, with no extra lines in between the header or between individual citations. And remember, this entire thing should be Times New Roman, size 12 font to follow MLA guidelines.

Comment [peb18]: To give you an example to go by, I've redone this citation at the bottom of the list. It's highlighted in yellow.

Comment [peb19]: Be aware of the fact that this source is an interview. If this interview text is only available online, then for the most part, it should be cited just like a page of a website. For more information on citing interviews, [go here](#).

Comment [peb20]: After giving the title of the website, you need to include the publisher information, which means the publisher, a comma, and the publishing date. You can usually find this sort of thing at the bottom of the page (...)

Comment [peb21]: MLA no longer requires that you list the url for a website because so many url's are not static and often change. MLA also assumes that, with all of the other info you give (...)

Comment [peb22]: In the past, MLA has allowed people to either use italics or underlines to indicate a work that can stand on its own, as long as the writer uses one or the other and no (...)

Comment [peb23]: To cite an entire website: Give the author of the website. If, as in this case, there doesn't seem to be an author, begin with the title of the site in italics. The rest of the info you (...)

Comment [peb24]: Ultimately, this source is just like the previous source, a page on a website, so you can make the citation in the same manner as above. However, I notice that you have (...)

Comment [peb25]: Because you have five different sources from one website, I would definitely advise you to just cite the entire (...)



BLOM WRITING SERVICES

PROOF READING & REVISIONS

Editing ♦ Tutoring ♦ Copywriting

www.blomwritingservices.com

706.402.5301

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Locations of Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations. <http://www.nrc.gov/waste/spent-fuel-storage/locations.html>. 15 October 2009. 15 February 2010.

...

Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, As Amended. Public Law 97-425 (96 Stat. 2201). 7 January 1983.

United States General Accounting Office (GAO). Yucca Mountain: Persistent Quality Assurance Problems Could Delay Repository Licensing and Operation. GAO-04-460. April 2004.

Ground Zero: The Aftermath of Fifty Nuclear Years. Shuntaro Sugiura, Satoshi Atsumi, Nobuhisa Yamashita, and Hiroshi Ashidate. 1996.

Man, Energy, and The Environment: Part One. 1992.

Man, Energy, and The Environment: Part Two. 1992.

Stallings, Richard. "Nuclear Reaction: Why do Americans Fear Nuclear Power?" *Frontline*. WGBH Educational Foundation, 2010. Web. 28 Feb. 2010.

Comment [peb26]: Is this the session of the GAO that came up with this? If so, that's fine.

Comment [peb27]: Insert the location of publication followed by a colon and the organization that published this document, followed by a comma and then the date. End it with the medium, which is probably Print.

Comment [peb28]: Are these last three items films? Movies should begin with their title, in italics. After this, give the directors name (Example: Dir. Tim Burton) and a period. Then put the distribution company, a comma, and the release year. The last thing in the citation should be the medium. If it is a film that is in theaters or has not yet been released on video or DVD, put "Film." If is now out on video, put the appropriate medium (DVD, VHS, Laser disc, etc.). If the actors who performed in the movie are especially relevant, you can insert them after the director. There should still be a period after the director. Then put "Perf." followed by a list of the important actors with their names separated by commas. These should be listed in the order of importance.



BLOM WRITING SERVICES

PROOF READING SERVICES

Editing ♦ Tutoring ♦ Copywriting

www.blomwritingservices.com

706.402.5301

Closing Comments

Hi -----,

Per your request I have only really looked at your Works Cited page. Because I did not know exactly what kind of source each was, I spent a while determining these things in order to give you the correct information. I hope you find my comments helpful. Remember that, first and foremost, you should follow the guidelines of your professor especially since some professors have their own slightly modified citation formats they desire. I can only advise you on what standard, updated MLA format requires. This is for size 12 font in Times New Roman with 1-inch margins and with the text left-justified. Left-justified simply means that the left side of the text is all even, but not the right side. You currently have your text left-justified.)

MLA has recently made many updates to their requirements, the most important of which are the following three:

- Writers could once choose between either underlining or italicizing. They should now only italicize.
- Every citation in your works cited should contain a reference to the kind of medium it is (Print, Web, Film, DVD, etc.).
- Citations for online sources no longer need to include the urls

I've given you advice for your online sources, your government documents, your interview, and your movies. Remember that these should be in alphabetical order by whatever begins each citation. You are correct to indent every line of each citation except for the first line of each. However, the entire works cited should be double-spaced, with no extra spaces in between each source.

For general help with MLA, check out the page on the Purdue OWL:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>. They have information on formatting an entire paper in MLA, doing in-text citations, and making your works cited page. They have example works cited pages and example papers, and they both explain how to do each citation but also provide individual examples. Here's a list of the relevant pages for your sources.

- Interviews (Personal, Published, or Only Online Published):
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/09/>
- Government Publication (Under Other Print/Book Sources):
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/06/>
- Page on a website or the entire website: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/08/>
- Films or Movies, Recorded Films or Movies: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/09/>

If you don't like Purdue OWL, check out Diana Hacker's page:

<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/humanities.html>. We also have links for all kinds of citation formats on our website (including links to the OWL and Diana Hacker) at:

<http://condor.depaul.edu/~writing/html/stud/citation.html>. I hope this advice helps. If you need anything else, feel free contact me with further questions.

Best wishes,
Paul