Giving feedback on a text

Your feedback should be written from a first-person perspective. That means that you should say what YOU think, you shouldn't make general statements.

For example:

✓ **first-person perspective**	✗ **general statement**
I like that you had a good introduction.	~~**Your text is good** because it has a good introduction~~

The first-person perspective makes it clear that this is your point of view and that someone else might see things differently. A general statement on the other hand might feel like an unchangeable fact – which usually doesn't make sense when giving feedback.

What you can say to start with …

✓ **positive things**	✗ **negative things**
• I like … • I think it's good that … • I think • You did a really good job with … • You wrote a great … • The … really convinced me …	• I didn't understand your … • I don't agree with … • I think you could have written … differently • I can't see why you …

REMEMBER

- Be polite and use friendly words so that your partner doesn't feel hurt by your criticism.
- Write any criticism in such a way that you could accept it when others criticize YOU in that way.

If you don't agree or don't understand …

In this case you can say that you're surprised by something or you could ask questions:

Expressing surprise

- I'm surprised that …
- I missed a sentence/section about …
- I don't understand why you …

Questions

- I don't understand that part – what do you mean by it?
- Could you explain that in more detail?

- I would like to know how …

Example structure

Your feedback could be structured like this

1. **Describe** what **impression** the text left on you.
2. **Highlight** one section that you think is **especially good** and **explain why**.
3. **Comment on** one section that you think **could be improved** and **explain why and how**.
4. **Name** one section that you think **should be longer** and **explain why**.
5. Give one **example** that** you would write differently** and **show how you would do it**.

Based on the worksheet “Rückmeldungen sind Ich-Botschaften” by Monica Hettrich, Peter Gallin and Urs Ruf (CC BY-NC 4.0)