

# What Are You Carrying? Reader Response

Name of writer:

Names of responders:

Whether the “thing you carry” is concrete or abstract, all letters must include some of the elements below. Using a scale of 1-5 (with 5 being the best), rate how well you think the writer has achieved each of the elements by marking a rating on each blank line. For any rating of 3 or under, include specific suggestions as to how the writer can strengthen the piece.

\_\_\_\_\_ a vivid description of the “thing you carry”

\_\_\_\_\_ an idea of the weight of the “thing you carry”

\_\_\_\_\_ a sense of whether this weight is a negative burden or a positive pleasure

\_\_\_\_\_ an explanation of why he or she carries this thing

\_\_\_\_\_ a story/stories involving the “thing you carry”

\_\_\_\_\_ a clear sense of whom the letter is written to (and how he/she is connected to the “thing you carry”)

The writer also may need to consider the items below while revising the letter. Note any suggestions for improvement in these areas:

- Develop an interesting and attention-getting opening.
- Work on a conclusion that ends the letter smoothly. No choppy endings!
- Think about word choice. Use interesting and appropriate words, and avoid repetition.
- Proofread to correct spelling, punctuation, errors in sentence structure, etc.

On the back of this paper, do the following two things:

- Explain what you think is the *greatest strength* of this writer’s letter in its current form.
- State what you think would be the most significant thing the writer could do to improve his or her paper. How should he or she do this?