

Peernote

An educational platform that connects writers and instructors, providing tools to create and collaboratively review papers.

Peernote is a web application that provides a new medium through which writers can connect, review, and discuss their written works. A writer using Peernote will upload an essay, review another writer's essay, and receive a peer review of their essay in return. Essays will be assigned to users based on a variety of metrics, including feedback quality and the compatibility of the writers' areas of expertise. Users who consistently provide higher quality feedback are matched with other reviewers who perform similarly. Experienced reviewers who consistently put forth quality work can offer their services for a fee.

During the semester, I served primarily as a front-end engineer for Peernote. From a technical perspective, our stack was Ruby on Rails with HAML and Sass. The focus of my work was to build an in-browser document editor that imitated the behavior of popular word processors but was tailored for our peer editing service. We wanted to provide an intuitive word processing interface with a focus on editing, including an annotation tool and a suite of grammar, spelling, and plagiarism-checking tools. The selection behavior was modeled after that of Google Docs, using JavaScript range objects to manipulate the appearance of selected text and to store these edits in the database so that the revisions could be saved and reloaded at a later time. Selections could also be associated with annotations, which were positioned accordingly in the DOM upon addition and when the essay was returned to the writer.