

Critique Group Analysis Criteria

Submit writing in 12 pt. Times New Roman font, double-spaced with 1 inch margins.
Ideally, the reviewer provides a written analysis, plus markups on the draft, using criteria below.

Purpose/Meaning

- Is there a unique and clear purpose/meaning?
- What is the meaning of this writing? Does it accomplish what it sets out to do?

Storytelling

- Does the story grab your attention and entice you to read further? Where did you start to drift?
- Does the storyline advance? Does it make sense? Where was it confusing?
- Is the pace appropriate for the scene? Where is too slow or fast? (e.g. need less or more information or words)
- Is the style of writing appropriate for the story? (e.g. sentence structure, word choice)

Character

- Are characters introduced vividly? How could they be more interesting?
- What is revealed about each character's personality? Do they act like themselves?
- How did the author SHOW us their characteristics instead of TELL us?
- How does the characters' behavior align with the emotional meaning of the writing?

Dialogue

- Is the dialog natural and believable?
- Does each character speak with a different voice? (e.g. variety of grammar, vocabulary, use of metaphors)
- Does it move the story forward?
- How well is the exposition disguised?
- Are there appropriate physical and emotional gestures? (e.g. smile, finger taps)
- If no dialog, is the voice and narration clear?

Setting

- How well is each setting described? Can you "see it and feel it"?
- Does it move the story forward?
- How does the setting align with the emotional meaning of the writing?

Tension/Conflict

- What conflict occurs? (e.g. External: Who wants WHAT; what OBSTACLE keeps him/her from getting it? Internal: What is Pushing forward each character (e.g. desired goal, motive, want) countered by a Pulling Back (e.g. inner fear, wound)? What do characters want at the end?)
- Is the conflict strong enough to move the story forward?
- Are there are areas throughout that ease this tension?

Other

- For each criterion, consider: What are the strengths? Where could it be enriched?
- Are experiences with all five senses (sight, smell, taste, feel, hearing) incorporated throughout? (e.g. setting, dialogue/character's experiences, narration)