

Writers of Kern
Critique Sheet for Fiction & Non-fiction
[Save this page on your computer or make lots of copies.]

Reviewer's Name:

Author/Piece:

Impressions/Short summary

Positives: What I liked? Favorite passage/dialogue/description?

Suggestions to consider: Was something confusing? Character continuity or plot error?
Dialogue confusing?

Final thoughts: Write 5-6 sentences about this piece/comments for the author.

The critic should keep in mind:

Plot: Did it make sense?

Characters: Appearance? Personality? Can you tell them apart?

Setting: Visual details, can you see it, smell it, hear it?

While reading, mark grammar/punctuation/spelling errors. Be free with praise when you see a good sentence etc.

How to be a good Critique Group Partner

Be honest Be thick-skinned Consider comments carefully Be kind Be encouraging Be friendly Be prompt Look at the big picture We're all in this together	Constructive comments are always welcome. I always look on the last page to see these detailed reflections. The best ones don't critique every sentence but do have enough that my writing can improve. Honest comments about what is done right are encouraging. Strive for a Goldilocks blend of constructive and positive.
--	---

Use this space to mark quick response. When relevant, mark “+,” or “-” to highlight areas for critique on page 1.

Non-fiction

___ Overall impression: the hook, support for ideas, content, subject

___ Audience: is it right for the audience?

___ Style: tone, language, clarity, theme

___ Format: paragraphing, layout, appropriate for target publisher

___ Mechanics: punctuation, word choice, sentence variety

Other: closing observation or comment

Fiction:

___ Development of the narrative: clarity, credibility,

___ Elements: beginning, middle, end that work together

___ Characters: consistent, credible, add to the story, work with POV

___ Dialog: helps the story, works with the character

___ Setting: able to ‘see,’ the setting without undue detail, description helps/not hinders the story, the world the author creates is consistent and able to believe

___ POV: consistent for the section, chapter or whole story

___ Pacing: flow of the story, develops in keeping with the story

___ Mechanics: grammars, sentence variety, vocabulary

Other: closing observation or comment

Glossary

Fiction: literature in the form of prose, especially short stories and novels, that describes imaginary events and people

Non-fiction: prose writing that is based on facts, real events, and real people, such as biography or history

Creative non-fiction: non-fiction told as fiction

Memoir: historical account or biography written from personal knowledge or special sources

Audience: the readership of a book, magazine, or newspaper

Character: a person in a novel, play, or movie

Description: spoken or written representation or account of a person, object, or event. Telling the reader what something looks like

Dialog: conversation between two or more people as a feature of a book, play, or movie

Elements: beginning, middle and end of a story. These should work together.

Imagery: visually descriptive

Mechanics: the grammar, spelling, correct subject and verb, sentences correctly written and that favorite—sentence variety.

Narrative: the narrated part or parts of a literary work, as distinct from dialogue

Pacing: the narrative told at a rate the reader will understand and enjoy. Not too fast or too slow

Plot: the main events of a play, novel, movie, or similar work, devised and presented by the writer as an interrelated sequence

POV: (in fictional writing) the narrator's position in relation to the story being told: *this story is told from a child's point of view*. 1st, the I narrator, 3rd, the POV of someone other than the narrator.

Setting: time and place of the story

Style: the manner in which a writer tells her story. Stephen King's style is different than Harper Lee's

Theme: message, the greater truth the story is telling. What the author wants the reader to understand

Tone: author's attitude toward the subject matter of the story. What the author wants the reader to feel

Voice. Active Voice: subject does the action; **Tom** threw the rock through the window.

Passive Voice: subject is the receiver of the action, not considered the best way to write.

Passive voice is not liked by *Microsoft Word's grammar check*

Source: *New Oxford American Dictionary*