

Craft Chat: Critique

Receiving Feedback

Questions

Am I ready for feedback?

Am I ready to make substantive changes?

Do I know the core of my piece?

Am I willing to change anything to make the core stronger?

Can I recognize what is detrimental to my core?

Who can help me see what needs to be worked on?

Do I know what to do with the feedback that I get?

Types of Critiquers

	Pro	Con
The Writer		
The Reader		
The Editor		

How to Receive the Critique You Need

1. Understand where you are in the process
2. “Prime the pump”
3. Listen
4. Assess
5. Address
6. Categorize

Always: *You are the final arbiter of your own work.*

Giving Critique

Ask Questions

Where are you in your process?

Are you ready for feedback?

What type of help do you need?

What do you believe is working well?

Do you know what the heart of your story is?

How much detail would you like me to go into?

What format would you like this presented in (marked up manuscript, notes, digital, other)?

Steps

1. Read through once
2. Second read, make notes
3. Organize your responses
4. Be sure to identify things that you like

Elements

Plot	Inconsistencies	Questions
Character	Setting	Dialogue
Pacing	Details	Other

- *grammar and wordsmithing are important, but not your #1 job*

Avoid

Projecting

Writing someone else's story

Personal bias (recuse yourself)

Being funny