

Critique Guiding Questions Worksheet

Opening

Does it have a strong opening?
Is the first sentence snappy and intriguing, or does it ramble on?
Do you get a sense of place and point of view within the first few paragraphs?
Does it make you want to keep reading?

Plot

Can you tell what the goal is for the scene?
Can you tell what the stakes are?
Does the piece contain conflict? Does the conflict work?
Does the progression make sense?
Are their parts that need added? Taken out?

Character

What did you think of the characters? Was the character sympathetic?
Were they distinct or too similar?
Were there too many characters, so it became confusing?
Were the characters interesting?
Did they behave in a believable way?

Dialogue

Was it realistic? Or did it feel stilted?
Was it interesting?
Were their words that didn't belong in the time period?
Did the characters have unique ways of speaking to distinguish them?
Could you always tell who was speaking?
Are action beats used?
What were your favorite lines?

World-Building/Setting

Did you feel submersed into the setting?
Were the five senses used?
Is the world perceived through the character's eyes?
Are there areas where description needs added, deleted, or altered?

Writing

Did the author use showing vs telling?
Were there certain words repeated too much?
Did it contain varying sentence structure?
Was anything repetitive or overlong?
Did they info dump?
Were there any places your interest faded?

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Compliment Starters:

- I like the way your scene/chapter began because . . .
- I like the part where you . . .
- I like the way you explained . . .
- I like the order you told events because . . .
- I like the details you used to describe . . .
- I think your dialogue was realistic. Like the way your character said . . .
- I liked your word choices, like . . .
- I liked the simile or metaphor you used for . . .
- I like the way the scene/chapter ended because . . .

Question and Suggestions for Improvement Starters:

- I got confused where . . .
- I would love more description of . . . {here}
- I'm not sure you need this part because . . .
- Would a different word be better here?
- My mind started to wander here because . . .
- This part pulled me out of the story because . . .