



A place, a space, a voice

Critique Process

The peer-response process allows members to give and receive helpful and sensitive feedback for the creative process. This openness creates an environment where good critical thinking may take place. Discussion of members' work is inspired by Liz Lerman's "Toward a Process for Critical Response" and may be found at <http://www.pdc1.org/viewthisarticle.php?article=3>

1. Authors sign up to read at the start of the meeting. When it is your turn, distribute your work. Bring at least 30 copies.
2. Ask for specific reaction on items such as flow, grammar, believability, consistency, or point of view.
3. Read your work.
4. Members share their opinion on the piece. This should start with affirmative information. What worked? To what were they were drawn? What did they like? Members should form opinions with neutral questions. For example, ask "Why did you leave the character nameless?" instead of "I didn't like it that the character did not have a name." Ask "Why have you chosen to make the protagonist so young?" instead of stating, "The protagonist was too young."
5. The author and members engage in discussion. This provides clarification.
6. If solicited, members may provide suggestions for improving the piece.

We strive to strike a balance between honest assessment and subjective criticism. This climate supports artists' growth. In all critiques, use the Golden Rule: Critique unto others as you would have them critique unto you.

We welcome most forms of writing, including fiction and non-fiction, articles, autobiography, biography, books, essays, eulogies, memoirs, monologues, plays, poems, reviews, science fiction, songs, speeches, and stories.

Up to four double-spaced pages, in Times or Times New Roman font, may be read and critiqued during meetings. Keep in mind readings and critique should not take longer than ten minutes. Your time limit may be shorter if there are many readers. If you have a long piece, consider bringing excerpts over several meetings. Poets and other shorter genres may bring two or three pieces per meeting, provided the total is not longer than four double-spaced pages and ten minutes. Readers and critics should be productive and mindful of time. Keep discussions on the work. Readings are not time to talk about your writing or experiences but to solicit and give specific assistance on the piece. For more, see Jim Nelson's suggestions at <http://j-nelson.net/tag/toward-a-process-for-critical-response/>