

Short Story Peer Review Workshop - Overall Review (POP)

Directions: Make comments directly on a copy of the author's story as they read it to you. Be sure to provide comments for each category. Write as many comments as you can.

Praise: *What do you like about my story? What works well? What are some specific examples of things that you thought were done well?*

Question: *What are some things that you did not understand in my story? Are there questions that you have about why I wrote the story the way that I did? What are some parts of my story that you felt were left unfinished or not fully explored?*

Polish: *What could I do specifically to make this a better story? What parts would you change and how?*

Short Story Peer Review Workshop - Focused Review

Directions: In essay form, write a critique of the story. Provide an introduction paragraph that restates the main points of the POP review, body paragraphs that address each of the sections below, and a conclusion paragraph that contains a summary of the body and a final encouragement for the author.

NARRATION: *Was it 1st Person, 3rd Person Limited, or 3rd Person Omniscient? How effective was the narrator? What would the story be like with a different narrator? Provide examples.*

CHARACTER: *Who is the protagonist? Antagonist? Were the characters realistic? Were they complex or one-dimensional? Did their dialog seem natural? Realistic? Did you have an emotional investment in what happens to the characters? What can the author do to create better characters? Be specific and provide examples.*

PLOT: *Is the story "believable?" Does the sequence make sense? Are there any "holes" in the plot? Is there sufficient exposition to set-up the story line? What simple additions could make the story start out better? What should be added or taken out to improve the storyline? Is the climax or turning point clear? If not, what could help make it clear? If so, what are some other approaches that could also be successful? Is the resolution acceptable? Does it leave the reader satisfied? If not, how could it be changed? What are some other possible endings? Be specific and provide examples.*

SETTING: *Did the author provide details about setting? Did they match the plot of the story? Was there a second, alternate setting introduced to reflect the direction the plot was taking? If so, how was it effective? If not, what second setting could help support the plot? Also, what could be done to liven up the setting overall? What different settings could have been successful in addition to the ones chosen by the author? Does the setting adequately set the mood in each part of the story? Be specific and provide examples.*

THEME: *What was the theme, or main message, presented in the story? Was it well supported by the plot, characterization, and setting? If so, how was it supported? If not, what could the author change or add to make it clear and well supported? If the theme was unclear, what are some possible themes that the story could support with a revision of the story? Be specific and provide examples.*

STYLE COMMENTS: *How was the word choice in the stories? Did it add to the dramatic feel of the plot and the storyline? What are some words or phrases that seem bland or dull that the author could change to "liven" up the writing? Add anything else you'd like the author to know about the way the story was written. Be specific and provide examples.*