

20 Questions for Critique Groups

Finding a good critique group can be challenging and not all critique groups are created equal. Use this sheet to avoid wasting valuable time evaluating groups and find the group that's right for you.

Facilities Management		Yes	No	Comments
1	Does the group meet consistently?			
2	Is the meeting space quiet, comfortable, and conducive to work?			

Group Organization		Yes	No	Comments
3	Is there a moderator to run the meetings and manage time?			
4	Do they have clearly defined goals? Are those goals in writing?			
5	Are there rules for the people whose work is being critiqued? Are these rules in writing?			
6	Are there set rules for behavior of those giving critiques? Are these rules in writing?			
7	Is there a policy for removing troublesome members? Are these guidelines written?			
8	How often are members eligible to have their work critiqued?			
9	Are there rules for the min/max length for critique submission? If so what is it?			
10	Are there membership dues or fees? If so how much?			

Worthiness of Writing		Yes	No	Comments
11	Do they accept/approve of writing in your genera?			
12	What level are the writers? Published? Unpublished? Mixed levels?			
13	Do they perpetuate bad writing myths? (Grammar police, eliminate all cliché's, put thoughts in italics, etc.)			
14	Does group membership come with any perks? (Ability to attend workshops/conferences, meet with agents, participate in contest, etc.)			

Goodness of Fit		Yes	No	Comments
15	Are people from your race/ethnicity/religion/sexual orientation accepted as group members?			
16	Does everyone contribute and bring work? (Avoid groups where a bunch of people routinely come empty handed.)			
17	Do they actually accomplish anything at the meetings?			
18	Do they expect you to "prove" you made the changes they recommended?			
19	Do the people seem to like each other?			
20	Is anyone happy to see you?			