



Making the Most of Your Critique Group

"Writing may be solitary, but revision is communal."

Sarah Musolino



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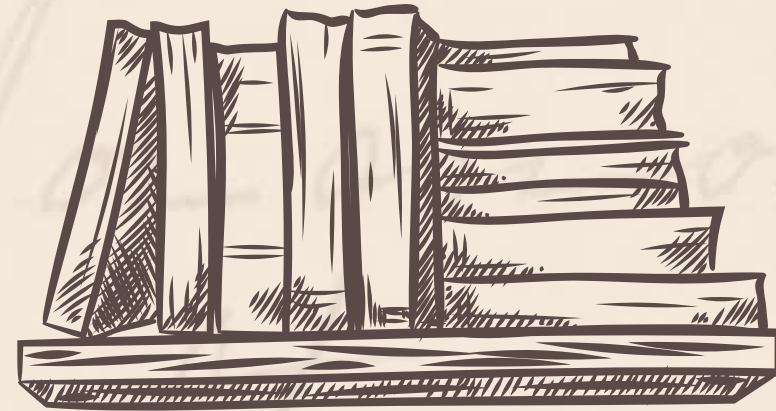


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Drop in the Chat

Drop one word in the chat that describes your
current critique experience- or what you wish it
felt like.

Why Critique Groups Matter

- Community transforms your craft.
- Accountability, encouragement, and perspective.
- Growth happens when we invite others in.

WHAT'S ONE THING
you hope to gain
from a critique
group?



What an Effective Critique Group Looks like

①

Safe &
supportive

②

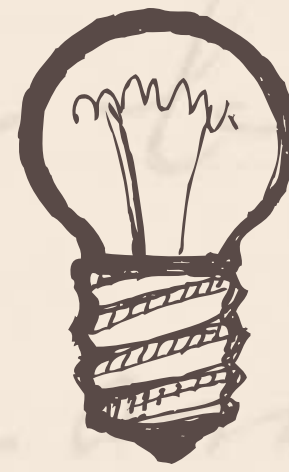
Consistent &
committed

③

Structured
yet flexible

④

Focused on
growth, not
perfection



Editing too
early

Uneven
Feedback

Common
Critique
Pitfalls

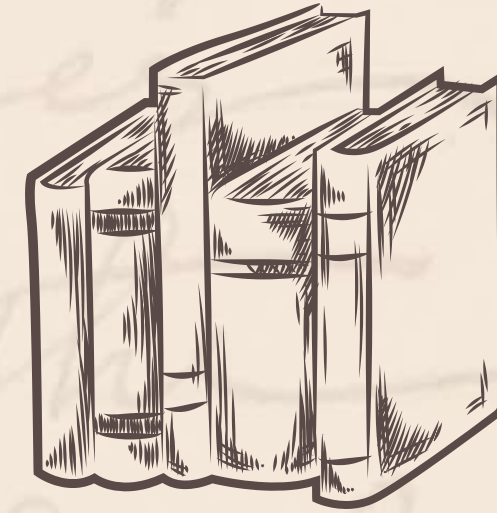
No clear
Focus

Overwhelming
or vague
comments

Have you ever experienced one of these pitfalls? What did it feel like?

Macro vs. Micro Edits

BEN FREELAND'S
Framework



Macro Edits

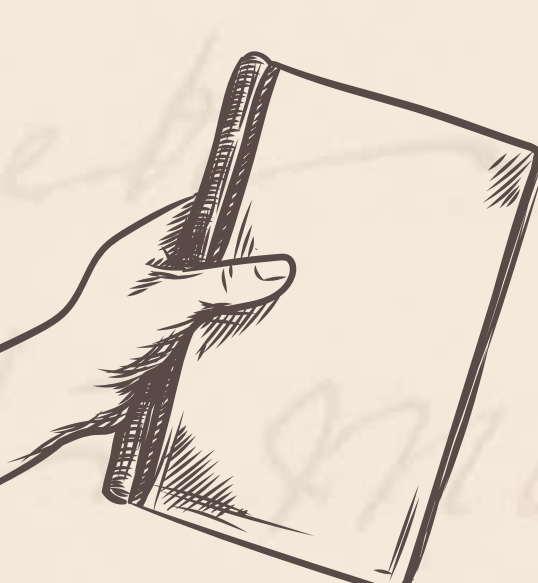
Big-picture elements —
theme, pacing, plot,
emotion, character.

Micro Edits

Line-level — word
choice, rhythm,
punctuation, phrasing.

Both are valuable – at the right

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stage.



THE WRITER'S FOCUS Statement



Guide your critique partners:

- 
- 
- “I want feedback on whether the ending feels satisfying.”
 - “Does the rhythm work aloud?”
 - One sentence keeps feedback on track.

Take 1–2 minutes to write your
own focus line for something

YOU'RE WORKING ON.

Giving Constructive Feedback

- Be specific, kind, and actionable.

Try:

- “I was drawn to...”
- “I was confused by...”
- “I’m curious about...”

Chat Drop: Share one phrase
you’ll start using in
feedback.

Receiving Feedback Gracefully

- Listen before responding.
- Look for patterns.
- You decide what stays and what goes.

Structuring Your Own Critique Group

Steps to success:

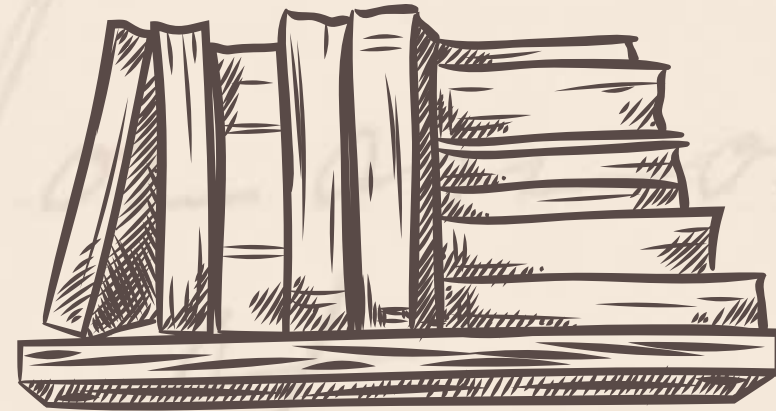
- Find 2-5 committed writers
- Decide frequency & format
- Set clear expectations
- Use shared tools
- Rotate leadership

Stop & Plan: Think about your ideal structure – how often would you meet? How many members? Drop your ideas in the chat.



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Growing Together

- Focus on progress, not perfection.
- Celebrate small wins.
- Lift each other up.

What's one commitment you'll make to strengthen your critique
practice?

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Q&A + Resources

- Ben Freeland's Editing Framework
article
- Recommended reads:
 - Writing Picture Books (Ann Whitford Paul)
 - Big Magic (Elizabeth Gilbert)



"We rise by lifting others – and our stories rise with us."

**Thank you for
joining!**

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