



WINSTON-SALEM WRITERS

where words take flight

## Critique Group Participation Frequently Asked Questions

### **How can a critique group help me?**

The goal of critique groups is to help you identify the strengths and weaknesses of your work and solve problems you may be having with your poetry, script, story, book, or essay. Group members provide feedback on things like theme, imagery, setting, plot, and character development, as well as act as resources for you if you have specific challenges with or questions about your craft. Critique group participation also helps you to practice reading with a critical eye and providing constructive feedback to others.

### **Am I too inexperienced as a writer for a critique group?**

No. Critique groups are for all levels of writers and poets.

### **When do critique groups meet and how long do they last?**

Each critique group establishes its own meeting schedule, guidelines, rules, and goals.

### **As a member of a critique group, do I have to submit work to the group for every meeting?**

Ideally, yes. However, each group will establish expectations for its members. Even if you do not submit something for a particular meeting, you are usually still expected to critique others' work and support their needs as writers and poets.

### **Do I have to take all of the advice of my group and make all of the edits they suggest?**

No. You are the author of your own work and will always make final decisions on how that work is revised.

### **Can I ask my critique group to beta read my manuscript?**

Not really. Critique group participants typically review one another's work in small, manageable bits. Therefore, if a critique group decides on 5,000 words per person each month, it would take 16 months to cover a manuscript of 80,000 words.

### **What if I join a critique group and it's not what I expected?**

No problem. Let your group leader or the Critique Group Coordinator know. They will help you find a different group or alternative solution to meet your needs.

### **Do I need to be a member of Winston-Salem Writers to participate in a critique group?**

Yes. Participating in one or more critique groups is a benefit for members of WSW. Memberships end on Dec. 31 and can be renewed at [wswriters.org](http://wswriters.org).

### **Who can I talk to if I have more questions or special needs?**

Reach out to our Critique Group Coordinator at [groups@wswriters.org](mailto:groups@wswriters.org).