Purdy

Creative Writing

Non-Fiction Peer Review Workshop

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

PEER REVIEWER:

WRITER:

**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?*

Non-Fiction Short Story Peer Review Workshop - Focused Review

**NARRATION:**

*Comments on believability:*

**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.*