**Tips for Receiving a Critique**

* **No draft is perfect:** Whether it’s your first, second, or tenth draft, your work may still need improvement. That is why you are having it critiqued. Although the number of changes you make hopefully shrinks with each revision, don’t stress if a critique session still provides you with something new to think about and revise. Fresh eyes tend to catch problems you may have breezed over a gazillion times.
* **Don’t take it personally:** Criticism of your work is not criticism of you as a person. While you have put a lot of effort into your writing, be able to step back and look at it from a distance, gaining perspective of what you need to improve through the eyes of other readers.
* **Don’t get defensive in the moment:**You don’t need to defend your writing. Nobody is attacking it. Let it go, if you don’t agree with someone’s critique. You have sought their opinion. That does not mean you are required to follow his or her suggestions.
* **Answer the question:** While you should never feel you have to defend your work, if someone’s critique raises questions, be sure to explain what you meant. Clarifying may make everything better or (quite likely) will make holes in your work all the more clear. That’s a good thing, right? It can, ultimately, raise the level of your writing.
* **Recognize the majority:** More than one critique partner may have the same concern about your content. THAT is when you may wish to take a good, hard look at what you’ve written. If the content raises consistent comments, it is probably time to listen and make some changes.
* **Take opinions with a grain of salt:** You might think it’s perfect. Another may think it’s too long, and yet another may think it’s too short. Just because something is suggested does not make it the best solution for your work.
* **Listen. Don’t just hear:** While the ultimate decision of what goes into your work is yours, don’t dismiss criticism that is harsh or might be difficult to implement. Truly listen to the point behind the criticism. Sometimes the hardest advice can be the most worth following. Be open-minded. The more you listen and see improvements, the easier it is to accept critique suggestions in the future.
* **Wait:** After receiving a critique, let it sit for a day or week before revising. After a proper wait, only make those changes that still ring truest to you.
* **Remember, ownership is yours:** Listen to what people feel does not work, and then figure out how (**or even if**) you want to fix it. It’s your work, your choice, your decision.