WNC Mysterians
Critique Group Procedures

1   Group will meet every two weeks. Maximum group size is eight (8). Schedule changes and other decisions will be by majority agreement. Donations from participants will help defray costs (room rental, copying, etc.).

2   Participants can submit up to 10-15 pages at a time for critique. Submissions will be made via email by Sunday night preceding our crit session. If needed, group leader will convert submission to pdf and forward to members. Late submissions will not be accepted.

3   Manuscripts will be double-spaced, in a standard font (no script or other fanciness) of 12 points, and must be page numbered. Submissions other than in this standard format will not be accepted.

4   Discussion will be on the basis of the prepared critiques, not on live readings.

5   Critiques by participants may be made on manuscript printouts or on a separate sheet referenced to the submission and submitted to the author at the next crit session or beforehand via email.

6   Critiques will emphasize constructive criticism, not author bashing. Be polite, but be honest. We're there to support one another and move the work forward.

7   Critiques will cite specific problems, i.e. where the reader lost interest, irritating character traits, discontinuities in behavior or site, plot issues, factual errors in technical matters, etc.

8   Author should not respond to crit the first time around the group. After the first round, author can respond or seek clarification.

9   If author's material is read aloud at crit sessions, it must be read by a neutral party, not by the author.

10   Discussion can be on:
- finding ideas
- research
- factual errors
- writing style
- vocabulary
- situation
- setting – time/place
- plot & structure
- character development ("the plot behind the plot" – the murderer's story)
- dialogue
- exposition
- description/mood/atmosphere
- foreshadowing (weaving in clues)
- using all 5 senses
- editing/self editing (macro & micro)
- writing habits
- handling large projects – (planning, outlining, notes en route, word count)
- rewriting
- agents
- publishers
- marketing
- other writing groups
- anything else pertinent to writing and/or getting published.

11   Consider grammar, spelling & punctuation to be "second tier" concerns. Although important, these are mechanical issues and need to be mentioned, but not dwelt on.