

**WNC Mysterians**  
**Critique Group Procedures**

- 1 Group will meet every two weeks for a two-hour session. Maximum group size is ten (10).  
Schedule changes will be by majority agreement.  
A donation from participants will help defray \$10 room rental fee.
- 2 Participants can submit up to 10-15 pages at a time to all regular members for critique.  
The goal here is to give more people more crit time.  
Submissions may be made in hard copy or **via email** (preferred).
- 3 Discussion will be on the basis of the prepared critiques, not on live readings.
- 4 Critiques by participants may be made on story printouts or separate sheet referenced to the submission and submitted to the author at the next crit session or before via email.
- 5 Critiques will emphasize constructive criticism, not author bashing. Be polite, but be honest.
- 6 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.
- 7 Author should not respond to crit the first time around the group.  
After the first round, author can respond or seek clarification.
- 8 If author's material is read aloud at crit sessions, it must be read by a neutral party, not by the author.
- 9 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.
- 10 Consider grammar, spelling & punctuation to be “second tier” concerns. Although important, these are mechanical issues and need to be mentioned, but not dwelt on.