

# Critique/Developmental Edits Checklist

\*You'll likely be making comments within the WIP document, but use this checklist to make sure you hit all the points, and to expand your thoughts\*

\*If they don't state it, ask if they're looking for fine details critique, big picture critique, both, or just a cheerleader\*

## The Basics:

1. Setting (Could you picture everything, was there enough of these key things?) Leave comments on areas to work on.
  - Weather
  - Wildlife
  - Unique Features
  - Everyday life
2. World Building (Were all/most of these addressed? Was the world fleshed out?) Leave comments on areas to work on.
  - Culture
  - Laws
  - Religion
  - Education
  - Jobs
  - Skills
  - Internal/External Conflicts
  - If Fantasy- creatures, believability, can you picture it all? Are things explained well?

- If there's a magic system- does it make sense? Are there limits?
- If Sci-Fi or Dystopian- is technology consistent, available food/water, accuracy, etc. Are things explained well?

### 3. Character

- Traits/Race
- 3 Dimensional
- Are any characters too similar?

### 4. Voice/Writing Style

- Author Voice/Writing Style
- Character voice/personality
- Passive Voice
- Show vs Tell
- Filter Words

### 5. Hook & Opening Lines

- Caught your attention or needs work?

### 6. Pacing

- What areas need slowing down?
- What areas need speeding up?

- Was there enough conflict/tension?
- How was the pacing overall?
- Was there info dumping?

## 7. Description

- Were there areas where you needed more? Describe:

## Developmental Edits:

### 1. Character consistency & arcs

- a. MC:
- b. Side Character 1:
- c. Side Character 2:
- d. Side Character 3:
- e. Antagonist:
- f. Anti-hero:
- g. Mentor:
- h.
- i.
- j.
- k.

## 2. Story Arc

- a. Clear Hook:
- b. Clear beginning of Act 2:
- c. Clear Midpoint:
- d. Clear Climax:
- e. Short & Sweet Resolution:

## 3. Plot Holes (List out if there are any, brainstorm ways to fill them):

## Additional Comments:

1. Is the MC likable and relatable?
2. Do all scenes advance the plot?
3. Do all characters have a clear motive, want, & need?
4. Are there any scenes you would change?
5. Any scenes you'd delete?
6. Any scenes you'd add? (Brainstorm here)
7. Were any scenes/world building/character decisions confusing?
8. Is the dialogue realistic?
9. Are the tense & POV a good fit for the story?
10. Does anything feel unresolved? Do you have questions as the end?
11. Your favorite character/scene/line:
12. Cheerlead & give them positives along with your critique. Brainstorm any issues they may have so your critique doesn't feel so daunting. Critique in love. Critique the work, not the writer.