

SAMPLE MANUSCRIPT CRITIQUE

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to edit your manuscript.

The purpose of this manuscript critique is to provide you with constructive feedback that will help improve the overall readability of your story, taking into account those tools that make a novel great. It may be overwhelming to read this information, but the good news is that, with some work, these issues can be rectified.

During the review process, I noticed a few things that I must point out that will help shape this book, as well as improve your writing skills. Below is a checklist that provides detailed information on your novel.

Book as a Whole

	Yes	Needs Work
1. Does the title convey the books promise in the most effective way?	x	
2. Is the content organized in a logical way?	x	
3. Does the order of chapters make sense?	x	
Overall: Does the book read authentic?	x	

Comments: [REDACTED] is a catchy title that will draw readers to the book. The book is written in conversational and informative language and is organized so each chapter builds onto the next chapter.

Basic Premise & Tone

	Yes	Needs Work
1. Is the basic premise or theme interesting?	x	
2. Is the key message expressed clearly?		x
3. Does the author set a tone early that is appropriate for the genre and consistent throughout?	x	
4. Are general facts and information accurate and consistent throughout the manuscript?	x	
5. Does the author use language, including word choice and sentence structure, in a way that is appropriate for the genre and will contribute to the reader's enjoyment of the work?	x	
Overall: Is the basic premise of the book appealing and well executed?	x	

Comments: Although the basic premise and tone of the book is solid, I think the key message needs to be more defined. In the Introduction, you stated the book will review 7 key action steps that will keep profits in the black. I never got a clear idea of what those 7 key action steps were. There were never any call outs to the 7 key action steps. If this book is supposed to be centered on 7 key action steps, I suggest you state them in the Introduction and expound on them in the body of the book.

Chapter Review

	Yes	Needs Work
1. Does each chapter have a clear purpose?	x	
2. Does each chapter have a compelling title and subtitle?	x	
3. Are the key points communicated clearly in each chapter?		x
4. Is the subject covered in enough detail in each chapter?	x	
5. Are there enough compelling anecdotes, examples, or facts in each chapter?		x
6. Do the paragraphs flow logically in each chapter?	x	
7. Have all vague language and run-on sentences been eliminated in each chapter?	x	
8. Have sources been accurately cited in each chapters?	x	
Overall: Is the style consistent throughout all chapters?	x	

Comments: Although each chapter has a clearly defined point, since the 7 action steps were not defined in each chapter, I marked question #3 as ‘needs work’.

You used the same “client story” in several chapters. I suggest using each story once and giving additional examples to hone in the key point for that particular chapter.

There is also a lot of redundancy in the book. It’s okay to be redundant in non-fiction but it shouldn’t be verbatim. If you are going to make a point a few times in the book (i.e., building a team), don’t say the same thing about the point. State different reasons why the point is important. For example, you mentioned building a team several times and gave the same example (hiring a virtual assistant). I suggest giving several examples of why building a team is important. That way, when readers see ‘building a team’ several times, they’ll get a few different reasons why that point is important.

Additional Feedback

The Preface and Introduction needs to be two separate sections. You also need a Foreword as well.

Conclusion

I hope this feedback helps as you fine-tune your manuscript.

If you have any questions/ comments regarding anything I've stated, please feel free to contact me via email or phone.

Again, thanks for sharing your work with me!

Michelle S. Chester

*Owner/Editorial Consultant
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