

Self-Critique Form – Travel Writing

This self-critique form has been designed for Dave Fox’s online course, [“Travel Writing: Explore the World and Publish Your Stories.”](#)

When you finish writing a story, use the questions below to analyze your writing and make sure it’s as strong as it can be.

More detailed instructions on the most effective ways to use this questionnaire are available at globejotting.com/critique-your-travel-writing/.

Lead

Does your lead paragraph immediately hook your reader? If yes, how and why? What grabs readers’ attention in the first paragraph? Why will they want to keep reading? (If you answered no, please see the more detailed instructions on how to fix this.)

Is there anything further down in your story that would also make for a good lead? If yes, would this be stronger than your current lead?

Body

What is the conflict or challenge in your story? Why does this conflict matter?

Does each paragraph have a purpose that moves your story in the direction of your conclusion?
Are there any unnecessary tangents you could cut out of this story?

Is your writing as crisp and tight as it can be? Are there areas that could be tightened further or cut from the story altogether?

Characters

Who are the characters in your story? Why do they matter?

Have you described your characters in a way that your readers will be able to see and hear them? Will we feel like we are meeting them with you?

Have you included direct or indirect quotes from other people in your story? How do they help the story? Are there any places in your story that would be livelier with quotes added?

Ego

Keeping one's ego out of a story is a challenge many writers face, especially when writing about our own experiences. Sometimes, a story is entirely about us, and sometimes, that's okay. What annoys readers is a tone that says, "Look what I did! Look how cool I am!" without any further purpose. Are there any spots in which you do this? Can you tone them down?

Conclusion and General Review

Does your story end on a meaningful note? If yes, what makes it meaningful? If not, what is missing. (See the more detailed instructions for more help with what to look for in an ending.)

Are there any loose ends or unanswered questions? Any blanks you need to fill in? If you do have unanswered questions, would it be better to give an answer or delete the question? (See the instructions for more help with this.)

Final Thoughts

Has your story met *at least* one of the following goals?:

- Inform
- Inspire
- Entertain

If yes, which of the above goals have you fulfilled, and how?

What do you like best about your story?

Is there anything in your story you are not happy with? Can you think of ways to fix this?

Is there anything you feel stuck with? Anything specific you need help with, or parts of your story you're feeling unsure about?

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