

Month 5 Task: Get Feedback for Your Writing



Because writing is solitary, writers are often too close to their content to notice obvious flaws, errors, or inconsistencies. [It's good practice to get feedback on your writing at any point in the process](#), but as you near completion of your first draft it's especially important to make sure your book is serving its intended purpose. Does your novel contain all of the key elements and structure needed to engage and entertain readers? Does your nonfiction book provide clear solutions or information on the topic in a format that's easy to follow? Having this feedback will help you next month when you begin the self-editing and revision process. Here are some recommendations for getting productive feedback:

1. [Be specific about the type of feedback you are looking for](#) instead of asking someone to read your entire manuscript and "provide feedback".
 - Does the overall structure/format work?
 - Do any characters seem underdeveloped?
 - Are there any holes in the plot or obvious inconsistencies?
 - Does the first page grab the reader's attention like it should?
2. Understand how much feedback you are needing and if there are certain parts of your book that need more attention or guidance.
3. Utilize your [ALC book project Author Circle](#), or, the Book in a Year Author Circle to reach out to both ALC members and non-members for feedback.
4. If you've started to build an audience through a blog or social media, use these platforms to share snippets or conduct surveys with your future readers.
5. Reach out to writing or critique group members, trusted colleagues, or friends [that you know will provide honest, useful feedback](#).
6. Once you receive feedback, don't be afraid to ask questions if you don't understand the feedback being given.
7. Don't respond to negative feedback with anger or arguing. [Evaluate the feedback](#), take note if it's relevant, or, simply ignore it if you feel it's not.
8. Be sure to thank anyone that offers you direct feedback and [return the favor if you can](#) - reading someone's work and providing feedback requires time and effort.

