



VIRTUAL CRITIQUE TOOL KIT

Why should I hold a Virtual Critique?

Regular critical examinations of your work are important for artistic growth and development. Being pushed and questioned on artistic choices is invaluable as you build your art career.

Who can participate?

Artists of all kinds can benefit from a critique. If you already have a critique group that was meeting regularly, this is a great way to keep that connection alive. If you don't have a group that was meeting in person, where can you find participants?

- Share the idea on social media
- Select a few artist friends and get each of them to invite one new friend

What service do I use to run the event?

There are many choices for virtual events. FaceTime, Google Meets, Zoom, Microsoft Teams and GoTo Meeting are just the beginning. We recommend using the one you are most familiar with. Note that while all of these listed have free versions of their services, in some cases the free version comes with time limits. Some services require specific equipment; FaceTime will only work for groups if all participants have newer iPhones or iPads.

How many participants is ideal?

For a critique group to have real, meaningful dialogue we suggest keeping the group size small. If you start with a group of 8 participants, with a limit of 5-10 minutes per participant, add in some breaks and chit-chat time and the critique will be about 2 hours. You can certainly do longer talking times, with less or more participants, but pay attention to the full length of the call so the participants don't get weary towards the end. We do recommend using a timer to keep the group moving if you think participants will be very chatty.

How will the moderator show everyone's work?

While you can simply have participants hold their work in front of a laptop camera or phone, we highly recommend that you have each participant submit images or videos of their work in advance of the critique. This allows either for the moderator to share the work on their screen or for all participants to access the images and videos in a group folder or social media chat.

What does the moderator do?

Make sure to choose a moderator for each critique. This person will keep time and help the group to move forward. This person may also collect and share the images or videos used during the critique to make sure that all participants are looking at the same work at the same time. Here is our suggested critique plan:

1. Introductions. If your group is full of old friends, this can be time for catching up. If all the participants are new to one-another you may want to have some way for people to share their contact information. Using chat features or simply having participants hold up a sign with their email address or social media handles makes sure that artists can connect with each other after the event.
2. Determine the time limit and let participants know what the time limit is.
3. Remind participants to mute themselves when they are not speaking. Barking dogs and fidgeting noises will cause the speaker to be cut off and interrupt the conversation.
4. Call on each participant in turn, asking them to briefly introduce the work and give a short background. Then invite other participants to comment.
5. Pay attention to time, letting the speaker know that it's time to move on to the next participant.
6. When you have critiqued each participant's work, you may have time for extra comments or just closing remarks from each participant.

Tips for submitting images and videos

- Lighting is important!
- Submit both full images and detail images of sections.
- If there are particular parts of the piece that you want to discuss, be sure to include detail shots of those areas.
- Take your images at the highest resolution possible directly from your camera or phone. Do not take images from social media accounts as they have been automatically downsized.
- Watermarks are okay unless they obscure the work.
- Images will be shared by the host for use only during the critique. Your images will not be published or distributed outside of the online event.