

## BSFW Abbreviated Critique Checklist

***Turn “Blah, blah, blah isn’t not working for me,” into actionable critiques***

### Character

Is the Character...

- ✓ Rounded (complex)?
  - And flawed (believably imperfect)?
  - And believably motivated?
- ✓ Showing realistic emotions & reactions?
- ✓ Purpose in the story clear? (Does her/his function clear yet complex?)
- ✓ Introduced at the right time?
- ✓ Moving from being reactionary to heroic?
- ✓ The right main character to be telling this story?

### Structure

Is the Story’s...

- ✓ Hook effective?
- ✓ Pacing correct?
- ✓ Inciting incident...
  - In the right place?
  - Presenting a clear immediate obstacle?
- ✓ Exposition...
  - Introduced in at the right time?
  - Foreshadowed with details that paint a clear picture?
  - Told in scene?
  - Need to know information?
- ✓ Do the scenes...
  - Show the appropriate level of challenge for the characters?
  - Present clear conflicts that make sense?
  - Show the hero failing and changing?

- Show clear cause and effect btw actions emotions?
- Pace well, spending enough time on the important events?
- ✓ Is the antagonist...
  - Shown at the right times?
  - Compelling & complex?
- ✓ Plot twists...
  - Properly foreshadowed?
  - Significant to the main character & story problem?
- ✓ Climax...
  - As stressful for the characters as it could be?
  - Preceded by a “false climax”
  - In the right place in the story?
- ✓ Resolution...
  - Satisfying?
  - Picking up the loose ends
  - Fit the kind of story you’ve been telling?
  - Consistent with your theme?

## **Presentation**

- ✓ Does the description...
  - Give the right details without unintentionally slowing the pace?
  - Build a world easily the reader can understand
  - Clearly describe the action and the setting interactions?
  - Fit with the character and the scene?
  - Match the voice?
  - Engage multiple senses?
  - Rely on nouns rather than adjectives?
  - Use effective metaphors?
- ✓ Does the dialogue...
  - Flow in a way that makes it easy to follow who’s talking?
  - Work alongside the action of the scene?
  - Provide necessary information?
  - Have rhythm?
  - Layer different multiple of meaning?
  - Work well with body language and nonverbal cues to tell the story?