

# TELL YOUR STORIES LLC

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## GIVING & RECEIVING FEEDBACK

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### Giving Feedback

Providing feedback on someone's creative project, whether it's a book, artwork, music, or any other creative endeavor, requires sensitivity and constructive communication.

Here's a detailed guide on feedback etiquette for giving feedback on creative projects:

#### 1. Ask for Permission

Before offering feedback, ask if the creator is open to receiving feedback. Not everyone may be ready for critique, so respect their choice.

#### 2. Be Specific and Constructive

Provide specific comments rather than vague generalizations. Point out what works well and what could be improved.

Use the "**compliment-critique-compliment**" approach: Start with something positive, offer your critique, and end with encouragement.

#### 3. Focus on the Work, Not the Creator

Frame your feedback as a discussion about the project, not a judgment of the creator's abilities or worth.

Avoid personal attacks or harsh language.

#### **4. Use "I" Statements**

Express your thoughts and feelings using "I" statements, such as "I found this part confusing" or "I felt moved by this character."

#### **5. Offer Suggestions, Not Commands**

Instead of telling the creator what they "should" do, provide suggestions or ideas. Let them decide how to apply your feedback.

#### **6. Be Mindful of Timing**

Choose an appropriate time to provide feedback. Avoid doing it in public or during a vulnerable moment for the creator.

If they're on a tight deadline, check if they have the time to discuss feedback.

#### **7. Be Respectful of Boundaries**

Respect any limitations or boundaries the creator sets. Some may only want feedback on specific aspects or may not be open to major changes.

#### **8. Balance Praise and Critique**

Acknowledge the project's strengths along with areas that need improvement.

Highlighting what's working helps maintain motivation.

#### **9. Use Examples**

Point to specific parts of the project to illustrate your feedback. This makes your comments more actionable.

#### **10. Avoid Comparisons**

Avoid comparing the project to others unless it's done in a constructive, educational manner.

### **11. Be Open to Discussion**

Encourage a dialogue where the creator can ask questions and clarify your feedback.

Be open to their perspective and be willing to adjust your feedback if necessary.

### **12. Be Mindful of Cultural Sensitivities**

Understand that cultural and personal backgrounds can affect how feedback is received. Be culturally sensitive and adapt your approach accordingly.

### **13. Keep Confidentiality**

If the project is not public yet or contains sensitive information, respect the creator's request for confidentiality.

### **14. Respect Their Decision**

Remember that the creator has the final say on how they use or don't use your feedback. Respect their creative autonomy.

Providing feedback on creative projects is an art in itself. It requires empathy, tact, and a genuine desire to help the creator improve their work. When done thoughtfully and respectfully, your feedback can contribute positively to their creative process.

# Receiving Feedback

Receiving feedback on your creative projects can be both rewarding and challenging. It's an essential part of the creative process, helping you improve and refine your work.

Here's a detailed guide on how to receive feedback on your creative projects effectively:

## 1. Be Open-Minded

Approach feedback with an open mind and a willingness to learn and grow as a creator.

Understand that constructive criticism can help you improve your work.

## 2. Manage Expectations

Recognize that not all feedback will be positive, and not all suggestions will be applicable or align with your artistic vision. Expect a mix of opinions.

## 3. Choose the Right People

Seek feedback from individuals you trust and who have relevant expertise or insights in your creative field. This might include fellow artists, mentors, or peers.

## 4. Ask for Specific Feedback

When requesting feedback, be clear about what aspects of your project you'd like input on. Specific questions can guide the feedback you receive.

## 5. Listen Actively

When receiving feedback, focus on listening rather than immediately defending your work. Let the giver of feedback express their thoughts fully.

## 6. Avoid Defensiveness

It's natural to feel protective of your creative work, but try to avoid becoming defensive.

Remember that feedback is about the work, not a personal attack.

## **7. Take Notes**

While receiving feedback, take notes to capture key points and suggestions. This will help you remember and reflect on the feedback later.

## **8. Ask Clarifying Questions**

If a feedback point is unclear or you need more context, don't hesitate to ask clarifying questions. Seek to understand the feedback fully.

## **9. Express Gratitude**

Thank the person providing feedback, whether it's positive or critical. Expressing appreciation encourages them to continue helping you.

## **10. Reflect Before Reacting**

After receiving feedback, take some time to reflect on it. Avoid making immediate changes in the heat of the moment.

## **11. Separate Personal Identity from the Work**

Remember that feedback is about improving the project, not a reflection of your self-worth as a creator. Your identity is separate from your work.

## **12. Seek Multiple Opinions**

Consider gathering feedback from multiple sources to gain a well-rounded perspective.

Different viewpoints can help you make informed decisions.

## **13. Prioritize Feedback**

Not all feedback is equally valuable. Assess which suggestions align with your vision and goals for the project and prioritize those.

## **14. Make Informed Decisions**

Ultimately, you have creative control over your project. Decide which feedback to implement and which to set aside. Trust your artistic instincts.

## **15. Revisit Feedback Later**

Over time, revisit feedback as you work on your project. What may initially seem less relevant could become valuable as your work evolves.

## **16. Continuously Improve**

Use feedback as a tool for continuous improvement. Embrace the creative journey as an opportunity to learn and grow.

## **17. Trust Yourself**

While feedback is valuable, remember to trust your artistic instincts and intuition. Your unique voice and vision are what makes your work special.

## **18. Embrace the Process**

Creativity is a process. Be open to revising and refining your work based on feedback as you progress.

Receiving feedback on creative projects can be a valuable part of your growth. By approaching it with an open and receptive mindset, you can use feedback to refine your work and take your creative endeavors to new heights.