**Welcome to Write On, Right Now!**

Our group is a program of Cumberland County Public Libraries, and as such, we are open to writers of all abilities. Some of our continuing members have been traditionally published authors, others have been self-published, and still others may be… let’s say “hopeful” writers who have never been to a critique group.

You can expect to find a welcoming and supportive group that offers real, actionable critiques, that go beyond the unhelpful “I really liked it!” Yet, while we try to be truthful about weaknesses, we don’t want to be overly harsh, and we try to also point out strengths in your writing.

If you have an item you want critiqued, please read the guidelines below and send it to me as soon as you feel it is as complete as you can make it. If your item reaches me after the submission deadline, I may still post it, but your piece will be discussed only if members have read it and we have time. Otherwise, it will be moved to the next meeting.

At our meetings, we usually use the first thirty minutes, as people arrive, to chat/network. You will probably be asked to introduce yourself during your first meeting (and again when we have other new members.) If you don’t already have a 3-5 sentence “elevator pitch” explaining who you are and what you write, you might think about preparing one. (You’ll want it, anyway, on your road to bestsellerdom!)

I sometimes offer a handout at in-person meetings, or a link to an interesting article or two. I’ll post links to those on The Writer’s Lounge ([**https://cumberland.lib.nc.libguides.com/writerslounge**](https://cumberland.lib.nc.libguides.com/writerslounge)**)**. If you must miss a meeting, you can catch up on these articles later on at your own discretion.. After we cover any announcements or accomplishments, we begin our critique work about 3:30 pm.

Please do know that we are not strict about arriving and leaving the meeting on time. “Come when you can, leave when you have to” is our motto. And if you have any questions, just ask. We are always willing to share our experiences and ideas.

I look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

**Robin Deffendall**

Adult Services Manager/Librarian II

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