

Sample of Critical Review and Consultation (No Editing)

Description: Our critical review and consultation services include specific and general feedback on all aspects of the manuscript's flow, structure, cohesiveness, effectiveness, marketability, and readability, as well as any other issues that may affect the quality of the book. We typically provide a separate page of review in addition to the inline comments displayed below. Critical review and consultation is also available via phone or in person.

Note: This is **not** an editing sample, nor has the text below been copy edited. This sample showcases the type of feedback a client should expect when ordering **only** critical review and consultation.

--Previous text has been truncated for sample purposes--

Jumpstart Your Happiness

No bottomless wellspring of inspirational quotes will pull you out of an emotional funk if that's where you happen to find yourself on any given morning. If the only remedy you have available is someone else's poetic truth, then you're likely to read it, feel sorry for yourself that you don't see the world that way, and then sink further into your quiet misery with microscopic failures disproportionately weighing you down.

Sometimes you can jump-start positive thinking through the words of others, but I've found this only works for me when I'm already feeling fairly upbeat. What about when the battery is completely dead, out of juice, and won't even turn over? Taking the dead battery analogy further, let's consider what works for cars. Now, I should say that the technique I'm about to describe might not work so well with the futuristic, newfangled cars that are streaming into the market today, but in an old, beat-up manual car from the late '80s or early '90s, the following trick works like a charm (most of the time).

In order to revive the engine, the car must be facing forward down a hill. The objective is to get the car rolling, put it in second gear, and then "pop the clutch," which miraculously awakens the engine and propels you on your merry way. There are probably those of you who

Editor 12/15/2014 4:04 PM

Comment [1]:

The transition between this idea and the previous two paragraphs I a bit abrupt. We need to shepherd the reader from thinking about frustrations with jobs and employment to thinking about how an "emotional funk" contributes to dissatisfaction.

Editor 12/15/2014 4:04 PM

Comment [2]:

In our conversation last week, you asked about rewording this, but I strongly suggest that it remains as is. The diction is a bit antiquated, or old fashioned, but it works well in this paragraph because the analogy being used is also in reference to a process (jump-starting a battery on an older car) that is similarly antiquated and old fashioned. The alliteration of the "f" sounds also works well.

Editor 12/9/2014 12:24 AM

Comment [3]:

I've changed this to "revive" because it also applies to reviving one's life. You could also possibly use "restart," "rev up," or "engage." "Revive" gets my vote, though.

recognize this method and have fond memories of your high school friends jumping up and down with glee as your car roared down the road, revived to life once more. All the car needed was a little momentum.

I've often accused myself of seeing damn near everything as a metaphor for life, but in this case, I can't help myself. This is a bona fide *Metaphor for Life*, and it can be expressed thusly: *When your battery is completely dead, find yourself some momentum and get your engine running again.* That's right; find joy in the simplest things, and then ride the momentum. Just like your old car with the bum battery as it starts rolling down the hill, you may still feel completely dead as you try to embrace joy, but don't lose heart—once you get a little momentum, your engine will start again. Practice expanding, expanding, and expanding that feeling of joy beyond reason. You just might find that your contentment continues even after you actively stop trying to continue it. Now, of course, you may be asking: "But how do I find joy in the first place?" Well, I'm glad you asked.

--End of sample--

Editor 12/9/2014 12:24 AM

Comment [4]:

"Revived to life" sounds awkward to me. "Revive" is good in the first sentence (as in my comment, above), but because it means "to bring back to life," it sounds here like the author is saying "brought back to life to life." I'd suggest the simpler "brought back to life."

Editor 12/9/2014 12:24 AM

Comment [5]:

This resonates well with the title of the book.

Editor 12/15/2014 4:07 PM

Comment [6]:

The analogy of jump-starting a car battery is effective and creative. It's an excellent working concept, but more is needed to complete its function in the text. We need to consider some practical steps to getting your life recharged. On a practical level, how does one "find momentum" and "get the engine" of a positive mindset going again? Practical, tangible, and everyday takeaways are essential for the success of a book of this type. Engaging and effective language, platitudes, and analogies are only half of the equation. The other half of the equation needs to be grounded in concrete steps for action.

Editor 12/15/2014 4:07 PM

Comment [7]:

This conversational style is very engaging. It helps to draw in the reader.