

## CHAPTER 11 – Critique Partner

Critique partners reveal blind spots. They notice pacing issues, emotional gaps, logical inconsistencies, or structural weakness that the writer, immersed in their own work, may miss.

AI can serve as a highly effective critique partner if you guide it with clarity and constraints.

This chapter shows you how to use AI for developmental critique, line-level feedback, emotional analysis, and structural diagnostics—without allowing it to override your artistic identity.

### 11.1 Why AI Makes an Excellent Critique Partner

AI excels at:

- pattern recognition
- structural logic
- emotional inference
- character motivation analysis
- tension mapping
- pacing diagnostics
- style consistency checking
- recognizing contradictions

- thematic tracing

It never tires, hesitates, or sugarcoats its analysis.

## 11.2 The Three-Part Critique Structure

Ask for critique in three parts:

1. **Strengths** — to preserve what's working
2. **Weaknesses** — clear, specific analysis
3. **Suggestions** — actionable options without rewriting

This keeps feedback balanced and useful.

## 11.3 Developmental Critique

**ASK:** “Provide a developmental critique focusing on structure, motivation, pacing, stakes, and internal logic.”

AI can identify:

- unclear motivations
- missing stakes
- sagging acts
- premature or delayed reveals
- unresolved threads
- thematic drift

Developmental critique strengthens the emotional and narrative spine.

## 11.4 Line-Level Critique

**ASK:** “Offer a line-level critique focusing on clarity, rhythm, and imagery. Do not rewrite—identify issues only.”

AI detects:

- overwriting
- redundancy
- weak verbs
- abstract phrasing
- muddled emotion
- awkward rhythm

Line critique helps polish prose without changing your voice.

## 11.5 Tone and Atmosphere Evaluation

**ASK:** “What tone does this passage convey? Does it match my intention?”

AI identifies tonal contradictions, such as:

- humor in a tense moment
- melodrama in a grounded scene

- detachment in an emotional beat

These subtle inconsistencies often escape the writer's eye.

## 11.6 The Emotional Engagement (EQ) Method

Use your EQ model to evaluate:

1. Emotional impact
2. Genre expectations
3. Engagement intensity
4. Revision tactics

**ASK:** "Evaluate this scene using the EQ method."

AI can map emotional potency and identify where engagement drops.

## 11.7 Blind Spot Identification

**ASK:**

- "What am I not noticing?"
- "Where does motivation weaken?"
- "Which beats lack emotional foundation?"
- "What contradictions exist between action and interiority?"

AI surfaces issues you sense but cannot articulate.

## 11.8 Voice-Protective Critique

Specify:

- no rewriting unless asked
- no style imposition
- preserve ambiguity
- honor your emotional tone

AI becomes a guide, not a ghostwriter.

## 11.9 When to Ignore AI Critique

AI is *not* useful when:

- you are deliberately breaking rules
- you are writing surrealism or experimental prose
- the moment depends on lived experience
- emotional vulnerability matters more than logic
- ambiguity is intentional

Your intuition outranks machine logic.

## 11.10 Critique Exercises

1. **Two-Pass Critique.** AI gives feedback → You revise → AI reevaluates.

2. **Scene Intention Test.** AI compares your intended emotion to the actual effect.
3. **Conflict Mapping.** AI maps internal, external, and interpersonal conflict.
4. **Pacing Scan.** AI identifies beats that drag or rush.