

Moxie Books: Questions For Beta Readers



Make your book the best it can possibly be: ask people you trust for detailed feedback

When I finished the second edit of *How The Hell Do You Write A Book?*, I sent a printed copy to my Launch Team of Beta Readers. Below are the instructions and the questions I asked them.

* * *

I don't mind how you give me the feedback, whatever is easiest for you—but if it helps, here are a couple of ideas:

1. Use a highlighter and coloured pens to jot notes on the book itself, then scan or photograph and send me the images.
2. Note the page number and simply create a document with your notes.
3. Make a video of your feedback.
4. Make notes on the PDF version of this book and ping it to me via email at vicky@vickyfraser.com.

Things To Consider

Before you start reading, please have a quick look at these questions and keep them in mind when you do dive in:

1. Did the book hold your interest from the very beginning? If not, why not? Where did it lose you?
2. Did you understand my reason for writing this book? Did you feel my pain, my frustration, and my excitement?
3. Did my topic seem exciting if you didn't know much about it?
4. Where did the book get boring? What parts could I cut out?
5. Was there anything missing? Anything I should have included?
6. Were there any parts that confused you? Or even frustrated or annoyed you? Which parts, and why?
7. Did any of the research seem far-fetched?
8. Were any details repeated or redundant?
9. Could some of the stories and ideas be more punchy? If so, how so?
10. Does the book need more stories?
11. Was there too much information and research, or not enough? Was the information helpful or did it drag?
12. Were there enough practical tips and steps to take? Or too many?

13. Was the narrative interesting and did it move along? Why or why not?
14. Did the book provide helpful next steps?
15. Did you notice any obvious, repeating grammatical, spelling, punctuation or capitalisation errors? Examples?
16. Did you notice any really annoying words or phrases that made you want to grumble at me? (For example, when I'm talking I say "you know" so often it makes me want to punch myself in the face. Do I do anything like that in writing?)
17. Do I need a separate chapter dedicated to writing your book's call to action, or does it sit okay in the "how to end on a high" chapter?
18. Are the chapters in the right order? Would it work better to restructure it? How?