Athena's Notes for Taking Feedback and Criticism

Hell No	Consider	Hell Yes
• Drop it in the "nope" file • Save for later • Eat some brownies to feel better/ have a glass of wine	• Check it against "Box A" • Sample run it • Test edit • Run a writing sample with the note to see how it feels • Can it be done in scope?	• Queue it into the revision set • Update the wiki mapping & inform the publishing/ production team • Fuck, yeah! Have a margarita! THIS IS GOING TO BE AWESOME!

Do these notes pertain to:
- Budget = **if yes, then prioritize a meeting to discuss**
- Market/demographics/ Audience expectations = **if yes, then prioritize a meeting to discuss**

Story Notes: Does it affect these areas?
- Continuity / Cohesion (check adaptation wiki / and publishing wiki)
- World building (check adaptation wiki / and publishing wiki)
  - Genre
  - Scope/scale
- Series timeline (check against adaptation wiki)
- Pacing
- Character arcs (proof against wiki- update info if note is accepted)
  - Emotional arcs
  - Emotional anchors
  - Target relationships (Check against wiki)
- Personal/ creative preference (if so, check against Box A) (can a team exception be made for harmony and team collaboration? Stretch to include new voices.)
- Correction to former issue (update all wiki maps)
- Polish/ shine /presentation = Quality Assurance

Box A:

- Does it flow?
- Does it fit in the scope?
- Does it impact any other dependent timelines/ chain of collapsing events?
  - If so, can it be mitigated down flow?
- Does it improve/ lift/ inspire/ challenge the status quo?
- Does it reek of pretense? Ego? Personal preference? (Mine included. Check the ego.)
- Does it support budget needs?
- Does it open up new avenues for excellent creative choices later?
- Does it Sustain/protect/ or build? Or does it accomplish all three?
- Will I get hate mail from readers? (Probably. It doesn't take much)
  - If so, is it a note I'm willing to go to bat for?
  - Will I defend this change to my audience? Y/N?
- Will it help my audience escape/ feel/ engage?
- Does it offer a yummy/fun treat to my people?
- Does it invite or exclude?
- Does it provide information that was previously missing? (If so, add and update wiki maps and panels)

Personal note and final checklist: Send polite responses and explanations to all notes, even those going in the nope file. Say thank you. Offer up a negotiating point for areas that are willing to be finagled. Be willing to cede to one or two points – specifically budget if it helps keep the peace and does not cost from overall quality of story. If email is "bitey" store in the folder for a couple of days. Play dead. Drink Scotch. Rework for professionalism. Pick only the fights that put your voice as an artist, and as a publisher on the line. Audience comes first always and ever.

Does it make the work better? Or just different? GOOD LUCK!