# GOOD DIALOGUE

**STORY:** _______________________

**SCENE:** _______________________

**POV:** _______________________

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**ARGUMENTS**

**TONE**

**EMOTIONS**

**BODY LANGUAGE**

**SPEECH TAGS**

**NOTES**

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GOOD DIALOGUE

GO THROUGH YOUR DIALOGUE LINE BY LINE AND CHECK THAT...

☐ It's always clear who's speaking.
☐ The conversation develops the story.
☐ The conversation develops the characters.
☐ The conversation introduces new information.
☐ The conversation achieves its purpose.
☐ What the character is saying actually makes sense and means something.
☐ The character speaks for a reason.
☐ The reader can understand what the character is trying to communicate.
☐ The characters speak in a way that is appropriate to their role.
☐ The characters use vocabulary appropriate to their role.
☐ The character is using the correct form of address.
☐ You use a variety of speech tags.
☐ The speech tags make sense, and don't sound contrived.
☐ The speech tags aren't repetitious.
☐ The speech tags are appropriate to your chosen point of view.
☐ The speech tags are in the correct tense.
☐ The formatting of direct speech is consistent.
☐ The formatting of indirect speech is consistent.
☐ The formatting of thoughts is consistent.
☐ The characters use (appropriate) body language.
☐ The characters convey subtext through word choice.
☐ The characters convey subtext through pauses, hesitations and interruptions.
☐ The characters convey subtext through rhetoric.
☐ The characters are purposeful in the way they stay on topic, or change the subject.
☐ The characters hint at things left unsaid.
☐ The characters convey the full extent of their emotions.
☐ The characters react to each other's tone and delivery.
☐ The characters always react to what was said before.
☐ The arguments are convincing.
☐ It's clear what each character is arguing.
☐ The outcome of the argument is clear (even if a consensus is deferred).
☐ Both the characters and the reader remain aware of the setting of the conversation.
☐ Both the characters and the reader remain aware of the context of the conversation.
☐ The characters get equal time to speak, unless there is a reason for an imbalance.
☐ It's possible to determine the characters' relations to each other through their speech.
☐ It's clear to the reader if characters misunderstand each other or talk at cross purposes.
☐ The pace of the conversation is appropriate to the scene.
☐ The conversation contains something memorable.

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