

**The Mastermind Model**  
**A CWC-Sacramento Pilot Project**  
**Brought to you by our Treasurer, Larry Mandelberg**



**Idea:**

- A group of writers with specific problems they want help solving.
- Each person completes an Issue Organizer (which can be downloaded from the club website, [www.cwcsacramentowriters.org](http://www.cwcsacramentowriters.org), where you can sign up). Forms will also be available at the meeting for drop-ins.

**Process:**

At the beginning of each session, participants list their issues on a flip chart and self-rate them:

- A) Critical
- B) Important / Urgent
- C) Nice to resolve

Those with the Critical issues go first, in the order they arrived, and put their issue on the chart.

1. Each issue is presented from the Issue Organizer.
2. After the answers to the six organizer questions have been presented, the Mastermind Group, a.k.a. audience, can ask clarifying questions – NO SOLUTIONS YET.
3. Once all questions have been clarified, writer with the issue sits and listens to the Mastermind Group offer solutions. No commenting or discussion allowed, just sit and listen. Bring something to record or ask a friend to help you take notes because the ideas will come fast and furious – you will not remember everything. And saying “I already tried that!” is a BIG NO-NO! Just listen.
4. If you want to explore one of the solutions in greater detail with one of the Mastermind participants, follow up with them after the group session has been completed.

**Duration:**

The process can fill as much or little time as we want with each individual issue cycle lasting anywhere from 10-30 minutes. Just divide the amount of time by 3 and the facilitator, Larry, will be a *strict timekeeper*. The number of issues we cover each session defines the length of the session and / or how much time we can give each issue.

**Summary:**

While it may sound complicated, it works incredibly well, hence my recommendation to do a pilot. If it works as well as I've seen it work and people love it, great. If people want to socialize, they can do so before or after, not during.

This can be a fun and energizing way to learn and share your knowledge. Please, consider joining us and bring us your issues!