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WRITING PROBLEMS RESOLVED

This exercise needs a little planning before the group meets. Ask each member of the group to think of a writing question or questions they need help with. This can work well as a general discussion, or you can ask everyone to come up with a question with a yes or no answer.

Ask everyone to briefly talk about their writing. Each person then asks one or two questions. If you have yes/no questions everyone responds by raising their hand for 'yes' or shaking their heads for 'no'.

Here are some example questions:

- I want to write a romance novel and am considering setting it in Venice, a traditional romantic setting, or Leeds which is a less obvious setting. Who thinks Leeds would be best?
- I need to know more about the life of a shop worker. Has anyone got experience of working in retail who can meet me for a chat?
- My character gets fired and that night goes back to his office and steals all the computers. Does that sound realistic as the premise of a story?

This exercise works best when you give participants advance notice, so they have time to think of a good question.