



You've written a book! Now what?

Some authors are surprised to learn that there are many types of editing performed by different people at different points in the publishing process. Whether you pursue self-publishing or go the traditional route, the path your book will take along its journey is similar.

Manuscript Evaluation

Also called a manuscript review or critique, this kind of editing is a good place to start. The editor will go over your manuscript with an eye to the big picture. Are your characters well balanced? Do the themes all connect? Does the plot follow a clear path? Are any threads left hanging uncomfortably? You'll receive a multi-page narrative of the editor's comments on all of these elements and more for a fixed price.

Developmental Editing

This is similar to a manuscript evaluation, but a lot more hands-on. Before the work begins, the author and editor will decide on how many "rounds" of editing will happen and set a per-word price. When a book is in a developmental edit, the editor adds copious notes to the text using Track Changes for the author to approve, reject, or address and composes a report similar to the manuscript evaluation. The author will revise, and then it's back to the editor who digs in to the work for the next round, making more suggestions and changes.

Line Editing

As detailed as the developmental edit was with the big picture issues, line editing takes that same careful look at each sentence and word choice. Line editing can be bundled in with developmental editing, or it can be a distinct process if the author does not elect a developmental edit.

Copyediting

The previous phases of editing will catch a lot of "its/it's" confusion and dangling modifiers, but the copy edit is a thorough, fine-toothed comb look at all of the grammar, conventions, and structure of the book. The copyeditor will mark corrections for the author to approve or reject before the book moves on to the layout and design phase.

Proofreading

After the book is designed and formatted for publishing, proofreading is the last step. The proofreader checks for consistency, catches any stray errors or omissions in the previous editing processes, and ensures that the layout flows correctly. Fresh eyes are critical at this step.

In addition to these editors, there are many other professionals in the publishing world who help your book find its audience: agents, acquisitions editors, writing coaches, book and cover designers, indexers, and more. I welcome the opportunity to talk with you about the services that I offer and how we can work together to make your novel shine.