

THE WRITER'S EDGE

READER PREVIEW



EDITING ESSENTIALS

BOOK 5

The Writer's Edge - 2027 Expanded Edition

Finding, Hiring, and Working With the Right Editor



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A selected preview from the complete book.

What This Book Will Do for You



Editing Essentials is designed to help authors avoid one of the most expensive publishing mistakes: hiring the wrong kind of editor for the problem the manuscript actually has.

Editing is not one job. Developmental editing, line editing, copyediting, proofreading, editorial assessment, and specialized review solve different problems at different stages. This book helps you diagnose what your manuscript needs before you spend money, then evaluate editors, samples, proposals, agreements, technology use, and the working relationship itself.

The result is a more deliberate editorial process in which you understand what you are buying, protect your authorship and unpublished work, respond to feedback productively, and know when the manuscript is ready to move from editing into production.

THE GOAL IS NOT A MANUSCRIPT THAT HAS BEEN CHANGED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. THE GOAL IS A MANUSCRIPT IN WHICH THE RIGHT CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE FOR THE RIGHT REASONS.

Selected From the Book



Evaluate the Sample Edit and Editorial Proposal

A sample edit can reveal more about compatibility than a long list of credentials. It shows how the editor reads your actual writing.

What to Look For in a Sample

Good notes are specific. They identify a problem, show where it occurs, and help you understand why it matters. You should not agree with every suggestion, but you should be able to see the editorial reasoning.

Watch for overediting. If the sample rewrites every sentence into the editor's preferred voice, ask whether the editor is improving clarity or replacing style. Also watch for underediting: a few corrected commas do not demonstrate developmental insight if that is what you are hiring for.

Compare Like With Like

When comparing proposals, make sure the services are equivalent. One editor may quote for developmental editing plus a written report and follow-up call; another may quote only for margin comments. Price differences can reflect scope rather than quality.

Selected From the Book



Interview the Editor Before You Commit

The interview does not need to be formal. It needs to answer the questions that determine whether the working relationship can succeed.

Questions That Matter

Ask what level of editing the editor recommends and why. Ask about experience in your category, turnaround time, communication, payment schedule, revision questions, style guides, fact-checking boundaries, confidentiality, and what happens if the project changes in scope.

Ask How Disagreement Works

You will disagree with an editor eventually. Ask how questions are handled. A professional relationship should allow respectful discussion without requiring the author to accept every suggestion or the editor to defend every comment as absolute truth.

Ask About Technology and AI

By 2027, authors should ask directly whether the editor uses generative AI or automated language tools on client manuscripts, for what purpose, and under what data settings. If you do not want unpublished text entered into third-party AI systems, state that requirement before work begins and put it in the agreement.

Try It Now



The Editor Interview

Questions to Ask Before Hiring

- What type of editing do you recommend for this manuscript, and why?
- What genres, audiences, or subject areas do you work with most often?
- What exactly will I receive at the end of the edit?
- Do you offer a sample edit or paid evaluation?
- What style guide or house style do you normally use?
- What is your turnaround time, and what happens if the schedule changes?
- How do you prefer authors to ask questions after the edit?
- How many passes or follow-up reviews are included?
- Do you subcontract any part of the work?
- Do you use generative AI or third-party automated tools on client manuscripts? If so, how?
- How do you protect unpublished files and confidential information?
- What are the payment, cancellation, and scope-change terms?
- Can you provide relevant references, credits, or examples of experience?

THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING.

HIRE THE RIGHT EDITOR FOR THE RIGHT JOB



The complete Editing Essentials walks you through the full editorial process: diagnosing the manuscript, understanding the major levels of editing, finding and evaluating professionals, comparing sample edits and proposals, interviewing candidates, using written agreements, preparing files, receiving feedback without losing your voice, revising after the edit, using AI and automated tools responsibly, and proofreading the book readers will actually receive.

It also includes practical tools such as the Editor Interview, Editing Budget Worksheet, and Final Editorial Audit so you can make better decisions before, during, and after professional editing.

A strong editor does not replace the writer. The right editorial relationship helps make the writer's intention clearer, stronger, and more visible on the page.

EDITING ESSENTIALS

BOOK 5 OF THE WRITER'S EDGE

Practical Guides for Serious Writers

GET THE COMPLETE BOOK