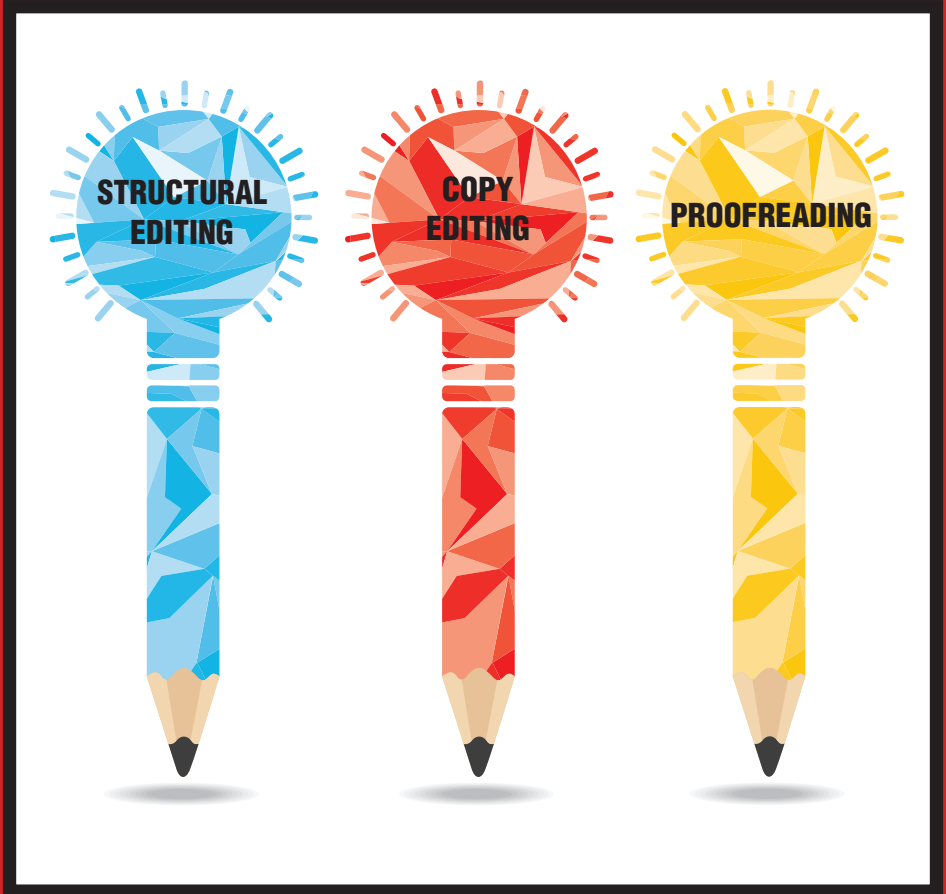


# The Three Stages of



# EDITING

# THE EDITING PROCESS: Polishing your manuscript

A badly edited book (or one that has not been edited at all) is usually a negative experience for both the reader and the author. Editing is the all-important first step in preparing your Word manuscript for publication and helps to ensure that the words on the page showcase your writing skills to their best advantage.

The benefits of having your written manuscript reviewed by a professional editor cannot be overstated. As an author, no doubt you've spent many hours labouring over your work to the point where you've become too close to the material to be objective. When you read your own writing, you're conscious of what you meant to say, so your brain fills in any gaps or overlooks any errors that may appear on the page. However, your text may be less clear to someone reading it for the first time.

An experienced professional editor brings a 'fresh set of eyes' to any publishing project – not only identifying and correcting punctuation, spelling or grammatical errors but also improving structure and flow for a smoother reading experience, without impinging on your writing style or author voice. Authors are always at liberty to decline an editor's suggestions, but most people are pleasantly surprised at the skills an editor brings to the table.

The book editing process should be a collaborative activity that involves an ongoing conversation between the author and the editor. Throughout the entire editing process, I encourage you to ask questions and to query any changes or editorial suggestions that do not resonate well with you. By working in close partnership with you, I can help you produce the best possible outcome for your written manuscript in terms of a high-quality published book you will be proud to share with the world.

## THE THREE STAGES OF EDITING

1. **STRUCTURAL EDITING** (also called developmental editing) – the ‘big picture’ overview
2. **COPY EDITING** (also called line editing) – involves reviewing the fine details i.e. grammar, spelling and punctuation
3. **PROOFREADING** – the final polishing stage

# STRUCTURAL EDITING

The recommended first step in any book publishing project is the structural editing stage. The purpose of structural editing is to shape the overall direction of your narrative and to develop an effective framework for your story or message. I aim to ensure that your prose is cohesive and flows smoothly in order to provide your audience with an enjoyable reading experience.

During the structural editing process, I will carefully review the organisation and content of your manuscript and look at such aspects as voice/tone, length, structure and pace, as well as the overall sequence of your book's sections or chapters. In addition, I review your writing from a legal and ethical perspective to guard against any potential defamation issues or copyright infringements. In the case of fiction manuscripts, I also identify any issues with character development, dialogue, plot and point of view.

During the structural editing stage, I don't focus on grammar, spelling and punctuation. Any language issues will be dealt with during the copy editing phase once we've made sure that your book is as polished as possible from a structural perspective.



# COPY EDITING

The aim of the copy editing process is to produce a finished manuscript that is accurate, consistent and complete, thereby improving the quality of your writing and ensuring that your reading audience's experience is the best it can be.

During the copy-editing phase, I will check your manuscript for appropriate use of the nine parts of speech (i.e. nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, articles, prepositions, conjunctions and interjections), as well as verifying whether full stops, question marks, exclamation points and other punctuation symbols have been used correctly. I will also examine word usage and sentence structure, including conjunctions and transitions, to ensure your intended message is expressed clearly and concisely. In addition, I will review your written manuscript to ensure it does not contain any embarrassing omissions or mistakes.

I will mark up your manuscript using Microsoft Word's Track Changes function. You can then either accept the changes yourself, or if you are not confident doing so, I can make them for you for an additional fee.



# PROOFREADING

The proofreading stage is the final quality check and ‘tidying up’ process after the editing stage for your book has been completed and your Word manuscript has been formatted/typeset for publication using Adobe InDesign. Having your typeset book proofread by a professional provides you with peace of mind prior to publication and will ensure that your writing is not considered to be ‘amateur’. A second pair of professional eyes ensures that your book reads well, and that any minor last-minute errors in the text are eradicated.

Here are some typographical and grammatical aspects of your book I typically review during this final publication stage:

- Consistency of spelling, punctuation and style
- Uniform heading hierarchy/styles throughout the book
- Images/graphics have captions as appropriate
- Widows/orphans/single word on a line
- Unnecessary spaces
- Missing sections (e.g. Imprint/Copyright page, About the Author)
- Contents page is correct, with page numbers and section/chapter headings corresponding to listed entries
- Book sections are in the correct order.





*A Way with Words*

## **KEEN TO FIND OUT MORE?**

If you would like more information about the different stages of editing (including which editing service your book requires), please get in touch so that I can discuss your options in detail with you.

**Phone Patrice on  
0405 321 902**

**Website:** [www.psediting.com.au](http://www.psediting.com.au)

**Email:** [patrice@psediting.com.au](mailto:patrice@psediting.com.au)