

Carla King
Bonus Handout
Nonfiction Writers Conference 2013

ABOUT PROFESSIONAL EDITING

Excerpted from **The Self-Publishing Boot Camp Guide for Authors**
by Carla King

Professional editing makes a huge difference to your success in the general marketplace. A **developmental editor** makes sure the content is appropriate for your genre and readership, that the book has a narrative arc, that your chapters flow, and whether text needs to be moved or cut. Have you dropped a character or story line that leaves the reader hanging (or yawning)?

In fiction and creative non-fiction the plot, pace, dialog, and character development will be examined. In non-fiction, the editor will also analyze the effectiveness of lists, graphics, and illustrations. In photography and art books, a visual storyline will be analyzed.

The next step is **line editing, also called copy editing**. The editor makes a meticulous line edit to correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation, and consistency issues such as character speech patterns. Your editor will collaborate with you to create a style sheet to refer to.

Finally, **proofreading** is done once a “proof” copy of the book is printed. (See the chapter on printing for guidance on printing proofs.) Editing and proofreading are, unfortunately, skipped by many self-published authors, which almost guarantees failure.

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