



Description of Literary Editorial Services and Approximate Charges

Editing other people's writing is a high-level skill that is primarily learned through extensive work (*i.e.* on-the-job training). Editors must ensure to keep their primary Author, the field of the work, and the piece of work itself, in-mind when making suggestions.

Editing should help the author to maintain a foundation that is their own work. But also, professional editing should refine the original author's work to improve presentation of the written work for the author.

At a minimum: editing corrects typographical and grammatical errors, ensuring sentence structure, tenses and written 'flow' of the document are consistent. In this manner readers are not distracted by simple errors (*e.g.* typos) nor are they confused or diverted by structural errors.

PROOFREADING

Proof reading is a service to an author and while there are costs involved, the author should receive the most benefit from the altered presentation of their work improving and presenting the work in the best possible light.

All types of writing (technical, fiction, non-fiction, journalism *etc.*) can benefit from proof reading. All written documents, electronic or otherwise, should be free of typographical errors, formatting errors and obvious grammatical errors. Any-and-all of these errors tend to cause reviewers or readers to question the professionalism of the work.

Proof reading makes the finished product credible and accessible, including that the work is accurate and readable. Proof reading improves written work by ensuring readers and external reviewers are not side-tracked or irritated by simple errors in line spacing, grammar or spelling. This can be particularly important when considering that each reader may read dozens of submissions, stories or novels per year, including specialised reviewers (*e.g.* biomedical, medical, and scientific) that commonly receive and review multiple grant submissions, manuscripts, theses and so on, and are required to read and evaluate them in compressed time frames.

Proofreading services are generally charged at \$0.02 per word or \$2.50 per manuscript page for fiction/non-fiction/other prose, and about twice that for technical writing. Prices vary depending on whether your manuscript is single or double spaced, whether this is a translation from another language, whether there are tables, charts or figures included and so on.



COPY EDITING

Copy editing is a step up from proof reading and focuses on the way that you tell your story, present your argument, make your case etc. In general, copy editing goes beyond proof reading by improving aspects such as sentence structure, idiomatic meaning, removing overly descriptive pieces of text, or pointing out places where text can or could flow better.

This type of editing is intended to improve the accuracy and clarity of writing. Typically, Editors refer to the five “Cs”: clear, correct, concise, comprehensible, and consistent. Copy editing is a step up from proof-reading by being more comprehensive.

Some examples of things that copy editors look for and correct include: repetitive sentences or phrases throughout the work, awkward dialogue that sounds “clunky” or “forced”, colloquialisms in technical work, and over-use of acronyms or jargon.

Copy editing rates usually range between \$0.02 and \$0.04 per word, or between \$2.50 to \$5 per manuscript page for fiction/non-fiction/other prose.

Charges are usually twice as much for technical writing, reflecting our editors’ expertise and experience, as well as our company’s unusual ability in this space (*i.e.* most editorial services specialise in traditional publishing and cannot serve the STEM community).

Some types of writing are not eligible for [reputable] line or developmental editorial services (detailed below). Examples include Personal Statements and academic Theses.

LINE EDITING

Line editing is yet another step-up from copy editing and provides creative feedback on your project and in-depth suggestions for content development. Experience varies widely for line editing, and some editors charge considerably more for this service based on experience and prior success, so a wider range of costs occur. In general, charges are commensurate with experience.

Another relevant consideration when engaging a line editor is stylistic. Does the line editor specialize in your type of writing (e.g. editing technical reports differs from editing novels or poetry). This also varies within genres e.g. a line editor that specializes in Romantic Fiction likely differs from one that edits Suspense novels OR a line editor that specializes in biochemistry likely differs from one that edits biomedical engineering. Some editors can and do line edit different categories and genres widely, but they may charge accordingly.



Line editing rates usually cost between \$0.04 and \$0.09 per word. Some line editors charge by page, in the range of \$5 to \$15 per page. A good average here is \$.06 per word or \$12 per page. Any time there is a need or a preference for line editing, authors should approach the editors directly for specialized pricing, we welcome your enquiries for line editing regarding time frames, costs and scope or service.

DEVELOPMENTAL EDITING

Developmental editing is the most detailed and comprehensive type of feedback and consequently it is generally the most expensive. Authors can think of this type of editing as guidance on content and narrative.

To be successful, developmental editors need to fit with the style of the genre (fantasy, biomedical, sci-fi, engineering, short stories *etc.*) and also with each writer's individual style. The level of experience and flexibility this requires is developed over time and can, as mentioned above; carry a hefty price tag. One way of thinking about developmental editing is that it is more of a partnership... while the primary author retains all moral rights and copyright, the developmental editor contributes significantly to the work.

The breadth and depth of work, experience and effort required for developmental editing mean that costs are generally quite high – usually \$0.09 and \$0.15 per word or in the range of \$7.50 to \$20 per page. A ball-park average for developmental editing rates is \$0.11 per word or \$15 per page. If you think you require or would like developmental editing, please contact us directly to discuss scope-of-service, timelines and costs.

REVISIONS

Most editors charge to review material a second time (“a revision”). This reflects the additional time and effort spent on the piece of media.

For proofreading and copy editing, revisions have the same workload as a first submission, because there are commonly new typographical or grammatical errors to correct. This is particularly relevant if the revision is extensive. For proof reading or copy editing, submitted revisions are normally charged at the same rate as a new submission.

For line editing and developmental editing, revisions are expected. This is because these types of advanced editing reach further into the creative process and commonly, the edits requested require extensive changes that, in themselves; create revisions. Even so, editors normally charge a percentage of the original rate for re-considering a line edit or developmental edit because they are already familiar with the piece. In this case it is common for revisions to be charged at 75% of cost. This does not apply to a revision that



was generated after feedback from another different editor, since the new editor is not familiar with the piece. In the case where a writer changes editors after initial feedback, they should expect the full cost to apply, as if it was a first submission.

EDITORIAL FLAT FEES vs. HOURLY RATES

Editors may charge editing rates per hour or as a flat fee. Examples of flat fees include \$X hundred for manuscripts below a certain length or \$Y hundred above a certain length. Fees may also vary for technical work over prose, particularly if there are figures and tables to be checked.

Editing hourly rates vary widely, depending on the editor's experience, the type of project (e.g. technical writing, fiction, straight prose, picture books) and the length of the manuscript. In this case charges range anywhere from \$25/hr for a junior or assistant editor up to \$500/hr for a successful professional editor with a large portfolio.

Budget is a critical consideration. Most people dislike talking about money, but it is important to have a clear understanding of your expectations and ability to pay – both work wise and budget-wise when engaging professional services. In this respect, engaging an editor is no different than engaging a plumber or an architect. Similarly, editor provide quotations based on time frames and scope of service, asking politely if an editor can negotiate can work, depending on the material and the individual(s) involved; but don't be surprised if any person providing professional service is unable to accommodate special requests.

To request any of these services, please fill out our online form or email editor@apteryxmedia.com