



Types of Editorial Services

"Proofreading a manuscript that needs copyediting is like frosting a cake that's still in the oven."

What type of editing service do you need? Here's an overview of the services I offer:

Developmental editing: Sometimes called substantive, structural, or content editing, developmental editing is the first stage of reviewing a manuscript. A developmental editor ensures the author's thoughts are well organized and clear for their target audience. This type of editing focuses on big-picture issues rather than nitpicky details—that's a copyeditor's job.

Line editing: A line editor goes through a manuscript line by line (no surprise!) and helps improve the language and style, such as fixing an awkward sentence. This type of editing can be a separate service, but it's often combined with either developmental editing or copyediting.

Copyediting: A copyeditor must be meticulous at correcting technical issues such as grammar, spelling, usage, punctuation, style consistency, internal consistency, clarity, and more. This type of editing polishes the writing and requires a lot of involvement with the text. Copyediting is the stage of editing just before a manuscript is formatted for publication, such as a book or magazine.

Proofreading: A proofreader is extremely detail-oriented, looking for typos and formatting issues at the last stage before publication. This stage includes reviewing the document (sometimes called a "proof") as a whole, including the table of contents, page numbers, photo captions, and other design elements. At this stage, there typically aren't many substantial corrections to make—if the copyeditor did their job well—but it's the last chance to fix mistakes before publishing, so a proofreader must go through the document with a fine-tooth comb.

I hope this overview of editing options is helpful for determining what type of editorial service you need. Drop me an email at ashley.festa.writing@gmail.com to talk more! I look forward to working with you.

~ Ashley Festa