

A Guide on the Three Main Types of Edits

This is an extra resource to go along with the original article:

[How to Make the Most of Working With a Professional Editor](#)

A Manuscript Critique:

The manuscript critique should always be the first step.

- Also known as MC or developmental editing
- An entry level edit done first before tackling grammatical errors
- Looks at the big picture and asks the big questions
- Focuses on plot, pacing, people, point of view, perspective
- A broad, comprehensive assessment
- Concerned with overall theme and consistency
- Tackles weaknesses within your story

A Comprehensive Edit

- Also known as a paragraph level edit
- Done after the manuscript critique
- A line by line analysis of your manuscript
- Deals with language of your story, including rhythm, transition, and wordiness
- Editor searches for clumsy or awkward sentences
- Editor focus on the elements and devices you can use to craft a more compelling story
- Editor meticulously scours your manuscript for any weakness, line by line

Copyediting

The copyedit should always be the last step.

- Also known as sentence level edit
- Focused on grammar, spelling, typos, syntax, and consistency errors (fieldsboro vs fieldsborough)
- Checks for potential legal liability
- Focuses on both the small details and the big picture
- Checks for technical consistency in spelling, capitalization, font usage, numerals, hyphenation
- Checks for continuity errors and makes sure that all loose ends are tied
- Checks for factually incorrect statements and potential legal liability

**If you're planning to go with a traditional publisher, you'll only need a manuscript critique and a comprehensive edit. However, if you'd like to self-publish, we recommend copyediting, too.