

# Questions to Ask While Editing Your Manuscript

*This is an extra resource to go along with the original article:  
[DIY Your Edit: 11 Tips You Need to Shape Up Your Manuscript](#)*

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## Questions to Ask About *Plot, Pacing and Tension*

- Is the plot engaging?
- Is the plot logical?
- Are all issues resolved?
- Does the plot make sense?
- Is there a hook?
- Is the plot focused?
- Are there surprises in the plot?
- Is the ending inevitable or in some way boring?
- Is there a climax?
- Is there a struggle? Is there tension?
- Have you addressed the conflict within each character?
- Have you identified how the characters struggle with each other?

## Questions to Ask About *Point of View*

- Is the point of view clear throughout the story?
- Does the point of view shift around within a scene? A chapter?

## Questions to Ask About *Character Development*

- Does every character have a strength?
- Does every character have a weakness?
- Have you properly arched all characters?
- Does the antagonist have motivation?
- Does the protagonist have motivation?
- Are there any unnecessary characters?
- Can you combine any two characters into one?

## Questions to Ask About *Scenes*

- Does every scene move the story forward?

- How do the characters interact with the scene?
- Does the scene fit the genre?
- Does the scene fit the time period?
- Have you added too many details and weighed down the story?

### **Questions to Ask About *Word Choices and Phrasing***

- Have you chosen the right words to describe each scene?
- Have you eliminated weak words and phrasing?
- Have you cut out adverbs?
- Have you embraced active voice?