



Edits by Stacey

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My 6 Tips on How to Find Your Editor

1. **Check out their website:** If they don't have one... that's weird. If your editor is a professional, they should have a website.
2. **Check out their qualifications:** The United States doesn't require editors to have a certain educational/certification path; however, they should have some things on their resume that say, "I am serious about my work."

Check out what organizations they belong to, or if they have acquired certifications from EFA or ACES. Make sure that they have a college degree or some other qualifications that make them well-versed in current writing trends and grammar rules that apply to your project. Are they established as a publishing professional?

Your next-door neighbor who is an English teacher and loves reading is NOT an editor.

3. **Review their experience and past titles:** Do they have titles to their name? Do they specialize in the genre that you are writing in? What are the authors saying about them?

4. Do they have reviews?

A word of caution. Freelance editors have a pain in their side. We aren't godlike, like acquisition editors. Freelance editors who work for independent authors don't get to have the final say. Some authors take our suggestions and others toss them out the window. Please bear in mind, that if their book looks the way it does, it's not ALWAYS the editor's fault. However, the editor should still have great reviews.

5. **Check out their rates.** Depending on the author's budget some editors are affordable, and others can be out of your price point. Be sure you understand that in a lot of cases, you get what you pay for, and be sure that the scope of work is clearly defined so that you don't think you are paying for one thing and get something completely different.

Before you hire an editor, establish what type of editor you need. Review my list of types of editors.

If you don't know, check out the types of editors that are available. Once you have determined what service you need, you should be able to contact an editor with a price sheet. If they are an experienced editor, they have a really good idea just based on your word count what they will charge. Have a sample of your work available, so that they know what they are dealing with, and get an estimate.



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6. Interview the editor: This is the MOST IMPORTANT STEP!

You wouldn't get married without meeting the bride/groom, would you? We don't live in the Middle Ages for Pete's sake. If it's possible, sit down and have a cup of coffee with the perspective editor, have a phone call, or schedule a video conference.

Often, an editor is more than just someone making corrections to your manuscript. They can be part coach or part therapist. Wouldn't it be helpful to know what their bedside manner is?

Ask your prospective editor the following:

- a. What are your interests?
- b. What work have one done?
- c. What hobbies do you have?

Why is this important? Because an editor who does more than read is a well-rounded human. You may be writing a book where the main character is a body-building fitness fanatic. Wouldn't it be great if you had an editor that has experience with a personal trainer or maybe they worked in a gym in their earlier years? Hopefully, you get the point.

Is this a person that you can listen to, or are they going to offend you every time they open their mouth? Could they tell you that there is a piece of spinach wedged between your teeth and you wouldn't be embarrassed at all? If so, it might be a good fit. Seriously, the only way you will be able to determine that is by speaking with that person.

If you are interested in seeing if I am your editor, contact me at <https://EditsByStacey.com>

