

How to Make Edits that Will Take Your Work to the Next Level

If you've reached the editing stage with your book, you can let out a little sigh of relief.

After all, you're in the home stretch - right? Well, in a way you are.

But you're also now assigned the task of figuring out how to edit your work to take it to the next level.

It's something every writer has to go through. Even the greats like Jane Austen and Neil Gaiman or your favorite author have to edit!

[Lucid Books](#) is a hybrid publishing company that's passionate about helping writers at all levels get their work in front of an audience. We're different and love it.

We place a huge emphasis on supporting our authors. We love having the feeling of being in a supportive family while giving you the experience and connections like large publishing houses can.

Being a writer isn't easy but we're here to help. You can [take a peek at the rest of our blog](#) to catch up on some tips and tricks we've picked up over the years that can make the entire process easier.

What happens when your story is finished, and all of the plot twists have been concluded, is an entirely new phase of your work to tackle.

Editing can seem daunting and some authors try and avoid it. That's the exact reason we've put together this helpful guide on how to make edits that can transform your work.

How to make edits that really make a difference

Lucid Books wants to make sure that you get through the editing process in one piece because it really doesn't have to be painful!

Here are our tips that can help you learn how to make edits that will really turn your book into a gorgeous, professional piece.

It's not something that happens overnight or in one go. Editing usually takes multiple drafts of work but, in the end, it's absolutely worth it.

Editing your content

When editing your content, it's important to do two things at once: look at the big picture *and* notice how the smaller points are contributing to this.

This sounds contradictory but you'll want to make sure that everything is all adding up to the same outcome!

Content editing is really [focused on](#) making sure that what you're writing has a focus. We try and figure this out by explaining your book in one paragraph and seeing if it gets out of hand or stays concise.

The more concise you're able to summarize your book, the better your focus turned out!

Content editing also focuses on making sure that your book is unique to others in the same genre. Or are you coming up with something completely new?

Thinking about your book from a comparative standpoint shouldn't make you feel bad or discouraged! Changes can be made to give your plot that level of uniqueness that can make readers really flock towards *you*.

Take time during content editing to make sure that everything has the right level of support.

This means that you've done some research on the topic(s) and things are adding up the right way. If you're tackling a genre like magical realism, have you explained how some people developed special powers while others didn't?

Give your readers something to hold on to when piecing together the world you've created through your story!

Once all of this is done, you can consider this round of content editing done!

Take another look at your book's structure

So you've figured out if your story is focused enough and have spent time checking to see if you've given the reader enough to make sense of your fictional world... now you're going to zoom into the way the structure is working.

We've all heard that a story should *flow* and that's exactly what this phase of editing is for.

Remember those outlines we had to create in English class to "plan out" your essay? Try doing that but in reverse since your work is already done.

By creating bullet points for your plot and subplots, you can get a bird's-eye view of how everything is [really working together](#).

This is the point where you will decide if certain sections can be removed completely or if they should be narrowed down. If you find that one section could actually work great somewhere else in your story, don't hesitate to switch things up!

Editing the structure of your book also means that you can experiment with different chapter styles, including sub-headings and creating different sections or "books" within your work!

Make changes to style

If you've read anything by Hunter S. Thompson or Vladimir Nabokov, you'll know that some writers just have a *style* that's 100% them.

These authors (yes, even Nabokov himself!) had to go through rounds of editing to solidify the style of their writing.

Making changes to the style of your work really focuses on the word flow and sentence structures you've chosen. While going through this step, you may want to pay special attention to how much you've been using a [passive voice](#).

[Your style](#) will be uniquely yours, so try and make sure that you're staying true to the voice that you really want to write in.

The only way those big authors accomplished this was editing their style and reviewing everything to make sure it has stayed the same through the entire work.

You'll also want to take this step to make sure that the tone is the same throughout the book. Any shifts in tone should really be looked over to make sure it fits.

Imagine a mystery book that's filled you with tension and anxiety as you eagerly turn the page. All of a sudden one of the characters comes up with a joke.

There are two ways this can go: it can make sense or it can seem random and never really come up again.

Editing your style can really differentiate between a voice or tone choice that *should* be there and one that was thrown in during the heat of writing.