



*Chick Lit Gurr!*

Shonell Bacon: Author, Coach, Editor, Educator

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# *Editing & Coaching Fees*

## **Proofreading**

*\$.008 per word (\$2 per page, based on a word count of 250 words per page, double-spaced)*

As you approach the finish line of polishing your manuscript, you will enter the **proofreading zone**. With proofreading, I assume your manuscript has gone through content editing and copy editing. There may be residual errors that squeaked through, like spelling, grammar, and tense and incorrect usage, and those will be reviewed in this stage. In addition, an examination of issues, such as correct use of white space (between sentences, with margins, with widows and orphans, etc.); consistency with table of contents and chapter titles, headings, and subheadings; and typographical errors will be performed. Here's a great way to think about proofreading. When I taught writing, whether it was English Composition or Writing for the Media, I always told students that when they felt a piece was ready to be turned in, they needed to do one final thing: read their piece aloud from end to beginning, one sentence at a time. By doing this, you're not focusing on the overall content of a piece. You are focusing on clarity of each sentence, formatting of each sentence, and any errors that might still linger within each sentence. That's what I, as proofreader, will do for your project.

## **Copy Editing**

*\$.012 per word (\$3.00 per page, based on a word count of 250 words per page, double-spaced)*

A main goal of copy editing is to improve a manuscript's consistency. This can include performing research to check facts within a manuscript. This can also include reviewing the consistency of mechanics of style and standardizing grammar, punctuation, and spelling. A client may feel her story is developed well, with strong characters and pacing that keeps readers reading. However, there may be places within the text where I will need to correct the story's flow by reorganizing content. Because I use Track Changes in Word, the client always has final say in how content will look in the completed manuscript. This edit includes in-text edits/comments and, if necessary, an evaluation memo to note any key issues found within the manuscript that need your attention prior to moving to the proofreading stage.

## **Content Editing**

*\$.016 per word (\$4 per page, based on a word count of 250 words per page, double-spaced)*

Content editing is about digging into the **heart** of your manuscript. It makes no sense to first review things like grammar, punctuation, and spelling if the project is underdeveloped and unorganized. Here, examination of the manuscript's overall, and chapter-by-chapter and scene-by-scene, development is reviewed. We want the first page, first chapter of the story to draw in readers. We want scenes and chapters to set the stage and to provide intrigue for readers, and to end in a way that urges readers to the next scene or chapter. We want dialogue that reveals characters. We want conflict that escalates. We want a **clean, well-written and well-developed story that will make readers happy to have read YOUR book**. In the content-editing stage, I tend to focus first on information I gather from you at the start of our talks: title, genre, story description, your concerns, etc. With that material in mind, I think about your manuscript's purpose, its audience, and I examine the project to make sure it connects with those two things. In fiction, this means examining elements, such as character and plot development, setting, point of view, style, etc. Are there plot holes? Is there more telling than showing? Do your scenes have great in and out points? For non-fiction projects, like self-help books, this includes reviewing your book's purpose and then each section of your book to make sure each section fits your purpose and audience and is developed enough for your audience. This also includes possibly suggesting other components for your book that would be a benefit to your readers, such as end-of-chapter questions and/or exercises. This edit includes both in-text edits/comments and an evaluation memo complete with comments on what works well and what minor and significant issues were found and suggestions on how to correct those issues in revisions.

## **Developmental Editing/Coaching**

*Fee varies depending on project to be developed.*

Developmental Editing/Coaching services are for those writers who range from having an idea burning to be written but needing guidance to get the story written to those writers who have completed a project and need help in determining what can be done with the first draft in rewrites and revisions to develop a final product worthy to be self-published or submitted to editors for possible publication. The goal of this set of services is to build a relationship with the client so that through my teachings, advice, and suggestions, the client can develop the best project he or she can. For more information on coaching services, please check out the following page on my site: <http://www.chicklitgurrl.com/coach/>

## **Academic Editing**

*\$.02 per word (\$5 per page, based on a word count of 250 words per page, double-spaced)*

In the past, I have edited scholarly articles, academic essays, theses, and dissertations. Most of these projects fall within one or more of the following subjects: all forms of communication (spoken, written, visual, digital), rhetoric, technical communication, virtual worlds, online education, English, literature, identity and identity construction, and community and community building. Most recent work includes being a copy editor for *Technical Communication* and a part-time editor for *Intercom*, both publications of the Society for Technical Communication.