

SELF-EDITING CHECKLIST FOR WRITERS

Use this checklist to edit and polish your own manuscript. Feel free to copy and modify it to your needs and preferences.

Round 1: Step back to see the big picture (plot, people, and pacing)

Plot

1. Review your storyboard.

People

2. Review each character, with special attention on the protagonist.

Pacing

3. Read the beginning.
4. Read the ending.
5. Skim everything in between.

Round 2: Step in to fix line by line (style and snags)

Style

1. Run a spelling and grammar program.
2. Review your grammar, word usage, punctuation, and unique terms.

Snags

3. Cut words and descriptions that hurt the reader's experience.

Round 3: Proofread to make your story shine

1. Read your manuscript aloud.

Wrap-Up

1. Make sure the formatting is consistent and correct.
2. Save a backup copy of your manuscript.
3. Update your personal style sheet.

The Tidy Guide to Self-Editing Your Novel by Rachel Aukes

www.RachelAukes.com

