



# Ronlyn Domingue's Editing Services FAQ

## **Do you require a contract?**

Yes. I always send a letter of agreement stipulating deadlines, payment schedules, and other pertinent information.

## **What payment will you accept?**

From US clients, a check or money order from a US bank, a payment through PayPal, or a payment through Zelle. From international clients, PayPal or a bank wire transfer.

## **What are your payment terms?**

Half upon accepting the letter of agreement (deadline will be stipulated); half on delivery of the edited manuscript. You will receive an invoice when I deliver your manuscript.

## **What's your turnaround time?**

Three to six weeks, depending on my schedule.

## **How would you describe your general work style?**

Focused, organized, and straightforward. Whether I'm writing for myself or editing for someone else, I give my full attention to the project at hand. I'm a big fan of deadlines and schedules—and sticking to them. I answer questions directly, I don't equivocate, and I do what I say I'm going to do when I say I'm going to do it.

## **How quickly do you respond to emails?**

Typically, I answer messages within 48 hours of receipt during the regular work week. Easy questions will get a reply sooner than that most of the time. If my response requires more thought, I usually send an email to acknowledge I received the original message and an estimate when I'll get back to you. I rarely answer work-related emails on Saturdays or Sundays.

## **Will you accept questions via text?**

No. It's easier to keep track of my writers and our correspondence by using email. I appreciate your understanding.

## **Will you share references?**

Absolutely. Just ask.

## **On your website, you state how you approach a developmental edit. Can you tell me more about what to expect?**

The manuscript you get back from me will include Track Changes and margin comments that

- have questions and observations meant to help you clarify or enhance the narrative. For example (these are made-up),
  - Why did Jane decide to drive out so late at night?
  - Robin seems naïve in this chapter, but that's not how they've come across in the book up to this point.
  - A little more historical background information would help here.

- note passages to compress or reorganize (could be anything from reordering sentences to moving them to another part of the manuscript).
- point out inconsistencies (e.g., On page X, Jim says \_\_\_\_\_, but on p. Z, he says \_\_\_\_\_).
- mark sections that could be paced better (usually where the narrative drags on too long with too much detail, but sometimes the section is rushed and needs to slow down).
- suggest stronger timing (*when* something is revealed or told) of details or revelations to build suspense or to avoid dragging out a plot pivot too long.

The editorial letter will include an evaluation of the manuscript as a whole—what’s working, what needs more attention. Every book is different, and my assessment addresses individual needs. For example, a book might have terrific characters but has a structure that doesn’t reveal the story in an engaging way. Or the book’s concept is interesting, but the plot is sluggish and the ending doesn’t pay off. There are often multiple challenges at the same time, which I will point out.

### **What will you expect from me in the process?**

- Understanding that a critique is intended as a guide to strengthen your work, not a criticism of you as a person or your abilities.
- Openness to learning more about the craft—and art—of writing.
- Faith in yourself that you can get this book ready to publish no matter what route you choose (traditional, small press, self publish, etc.).

### **I want to get a literary agent. Can you help with that?**

Visit my *For Writers* page—<http://www.ONLYNDOMINGUE.COM/for-writers>. I have a section about what agents do and how to search for one. I’m not in a position to recommend or connect you to anyone.

### **Contacting agents will require a query letter and a synopsis. Can you help with that?**

Yes, although there’s a catch. I require full drafts of a query letter and synopsis to work with—ones that you’ve written. I think it’s important for a writer to be part of this process, not to outsource it. I charge \$100 per hour to revise queries and synopses. The average time to it takes for a query letter is two hours; one-page, single-spaced synopsis (500-600 words), two hours; and two-page, single-spaced synopsis (about 1,000 words), four hours.

There are submission services that will do ALL of this work for you. However, you’d be paying someone to do what you can manage yourself (if you wrote a book ready for submission, you can do this), and it’s possible the service will not be as targeted in their agent selections as you would be. To read more about the cautions—and opportunities—of services like this, skim to the “Query and Submission Services” section on this website: <https://www.sfwaworld.com/other-resources/for-authors/writer-beware/services/>.

### **Do you provide sample developmental edits?**

Not ordinarily because of the time involved and because developmental editing is holistic, unlike line editing or copyediting, so the edit’s quality is difficult to convey in a brief sample. However, I am willing to accommodate this if it’s essential to your decision-making process and I’m on your short list.