

Is My Book Ready for Editing? Self-Assessment

A self-assessment to help you reflect, revise, and confidently decide when it's time to send your manuscript off

Before diving into the editing process, it's important to assess where your manuscript stands. This self-check will help you reflect on your draft, identify what might still need refining, and ensure you're getting the most out of your future editing partnership.

Part 1: The Essentials Checklist

Answer yes, no, or almost. Be honest. No judgment—this is for clarity, not perfection.

Question	Yes	No	Almost
Have I completed a full first draft from beginning to end?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does my story or message have a clear purpose or takeaway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have I done at least one round of self-editing? (spelling, flow, clarity)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have I resolved any major plot holes or inconsistencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are my characters or main ideas fully developed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have I read the manuscript aloud or used a read-aloud tool?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do I feel emotionally or mentally ready to receive constructive feedback?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Part 2: Reflective Prompts

Take a moment to check in with your intentions, readiness, and goals.

What do I hope to get out of working with an editor?

Are there areas I know still need work, or do I feel confident with where it's at?

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What did I learn from this experience? How can it help me in the future?

(Check all that apply)

- Developmental / Structural
- Line Editing (style, flow, clarity)
- Copyediting (grammar, punctuation)
- Proofreading (final polish)
- Not sure yet

Part 3: Preparing for the Process

A space to ground yourself before stepping into revision with clarity and confidence.

What mindset do I want to bring into the editing phase?

How will I stay open to feedback while still honoring my creative voice?

Part 4: So...Am I Ready?

This is just a guide, not a gatekeeper. You don't need to check every single box to move forward, but the more prepared you feel, the more productive and empowering your editing experience will be.

What's my next step after completing this worksheet?