

The Importance of Self-editing

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Editing is the art and craft of shaping and refining a manuscript into a publishable book. However, gone are the days of a publishing house editor doing this work for the writer. For editors, buying books they think will sell has, of necessity, become the first order of business, and often takes most of their time.

Therefore, it's the best, most polished manuscripts that get accepted by busy editors. This means that, to increase your chances of getting published, you must be not only a great storyteller and a good writer, but you must excel at self-editing.

Self-editing is the art and craft of *you* shaping and refining your manuscript into a book an editor will want to publish.

Besides increasing your chances of acceptance, self-editing may be the only editing your manuscript will ever get. Once your words are set in type, they might as well be set in stone. So it pays to submit the cleanest manuscripts possible.

Next week, we'll begin a closer look at some practical pointers for self-editing your fiction.

—Lee Allen Howard