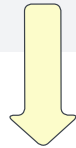


Alpha stage

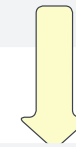
First draft

Don't focus on editing, just get it all down



Several rounds of edits yourself

Look at it with fresh eyes, in various fonts and formats to help you notice small issues



* Send to a small select group of Alpha readers

These are people who can provide technical help, people who know the genre and developmental requirements of a story well



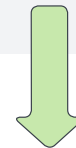
* Edit to implement Alpha feedback

At this point, you should be editing the structure of your manuscript so it reads logically and the flow of your story makes sense, (as do things like worldbuilding or magic systems if required) according to your handful of Alphas

Beta stage

Send to Beta readers

This group is larger than that of Alphas and here you'll get a more detailed advice besides simple story flow, to include character arcs, relationships within your story, etc.



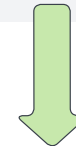
Edit to implement Beta feedback

This is usually far more detailed than Alpha feedback and you should schedule longer for this stage generally



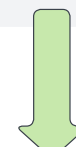
* Hire an Accuracy/ Sensitivity Reader

This is the stage I'll come in!

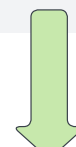


* Edit to implement Accuracy Reader's advice

This will include anything from individual word changes, to phrases which betray an internal bias, to plot points which are harmful to minority communities



* Hire a Developmental Editor and edit to implement their advice



* Hire a Line and/or Copy Editor and edit to implement their advice

Last steps before publishing

Order proofs from your chosen printing/ distribution company



One more round of edits done yourself from proofs

Anything you didn't like about the proofs, from the cover, to your internal formatting, and any final punctuation or grammar errors are fixed here



* Submit the final internal file for your pre-order campaign and order Advanced Reviewer Copies (ARCs)

Here is where you make a list of everyone you want to send ARCs to for pre-launch reviews/ hype. This can include indie bookstores, other authors within your genre, journalists, and appropriate social media influencers (you can also send a copy to your editors and cover artist as a show of gratitude).

Note: This is the process for the self-publishing/ indie route (a traditional publisher will take care of some of these steps for you)

* asterisked steps are recommended but **not essential**, it all depends on your individual manuscript and budget