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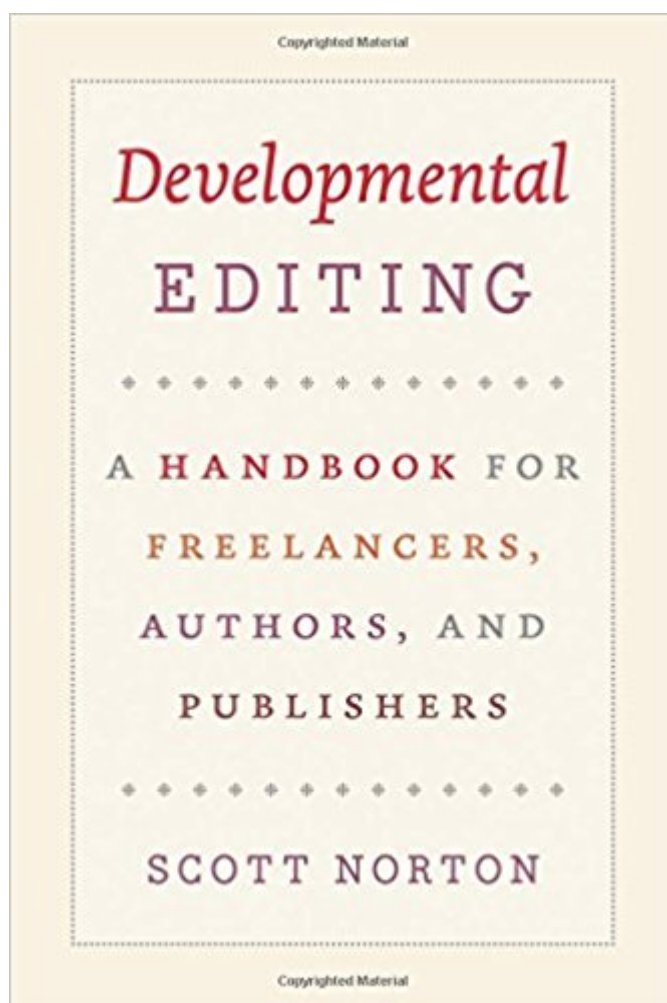
# Developmental Editing: A Handbook For Freelancers, Authors, And Publishers (Chicago Guides To Writing, Editing, And Publishing)

## Synopsis

Editing is a tricky business. It requires analytical flair and creative panache, the patience of a saint and the vision of a writer. Transforming a manuscript into a book that edifies, inspires, and sells? Thatâ ™s the job of the developmental editor, whose desk is the first stop for many manuscripts on the road to bookdomâ ”a route ably mapped out in the pages of Developmental Editing.Author Scott Norton has worked with a diverse range of authors, editors, and publishers, and his handbook provides an approach to developmental editing that is logical, collaborative, humorous, and realistic. He starts with the core tasks of shaping the proposal, finding the hook, and building the narrative or argument, and then turns to the hard work of executing the plan and establishing a style.Developmental Editing includes detailed case studies featuring a variety of nonfiction booksâ ”election-year polemic, popular science, memoir, travel guideâ ”and authors ranging from first-timer to veteran, journalist to scholar. Handy sidebars offer advice on how to become a developmental editor, create effective illustration programs, and adapt sophisticated fiction techniques (such as point of view, suspense, plotting, character, and setting) to nonfiction writing. Â Nortonâ ™s book also provides freelance copyeditors with a way to earn higher fees while introducing more creativity into their work lives. It gives acquisitions, marketing, and production staff a vocabulary for diagnosing a manuscriptâ ™s flaws and techniques for transforming it into a bestseller. And perhaps most importantly, Developmental Editing equips authors with the concrete tools they need to reach their audiences.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"I've done a fair amount of developmental editing, yet Norton has managed to fill his book with things I didn't know - or had forgotten or stopped being very disciplined about. Editors of every stripe - DEs, line editors, copyeditors - can learn much from this fresh, readable, and practical book." (Wendalyn Nichols, Copyediting)"

Scott Norton is director of editing, design, and production at the University of California Press.

This was a very good, detailed book about being a developmental editor for non-fiction work. I was disappointed because I wanted more information about fiction, but that was my mistake. A few of the points could be applied to fiction writers, but not many. But the book is well-written and would be immensely helpful for anyone desiring to learn how to work with non-fiction.Susan UttendorfskyOwner, Adirondack Editing

Excellent and comprehensive guide to the developmental editing process, incorporating illustrative examples carefully woven into the main text. This is a book worth reading with a highlight pen and/or bookmark strips ready to hand. An essential companion for every developmental editing assignment.

I actually enjoyed this handbook more than most fiction books I've read--it's like a utopian novel for editors. The text is perfectly drafted at the word level, and for me, vicariously solving the puzzles presented in each case study was almost as satisfying as doing so on real developmental projects. If your reading experience is anything like mine, you will constantly recognize elements of your own editorial intuition and gain a more dynamic ability to explore, understand, and justify them. Absolutely excellent

This book really helped me as an editor to improve my skills. The advice and instructions are easy to understand and have made a big difference to my clients. I refer back to it all the time. It is also good for authors who self-edit their books.

I bought this for my college textbook development and production editors. They all needed a refresher course on how to deal with various freelancers, authors, and other departments. They passed it around. Some got more out of than others but on the whole I believe it helped them all. The book itself help up to multiple readers. No pages tore and the spine didn't break.

Its mainly about nonfiction. Anyone writing fiction should read a different book.

This book is an absolute must have for writers as well as editors. I especially liked the chapter on book proposals.

University of California Press in Berkeley guides developmental editing in this book, for authors and publishers. This book denotes significant structuring or restructuring of a manuscripts discourse. It helps the author form a vision for the book and coaches chapter by chapter to ensure the vision is successfully executed. With use of line editing, chapter, section, paragraph and sentence levels, suggested rewrites are given. Authors should find practical advice to improve their writing skills; and maximize the appeal of their own manuscripts to prospective publishers. Concept focusing the authors vision, thesis and creating a winning title that reflects the winning choice is covered. Narrative to form a coherent story structure to choose between telling a story and making an argument is discussed. Detail to name a few topics includes, brainstorming to fine-tune a timeline to a revised table of contents is included. In exposition they fine-tune the main argument. A blueprint is created that will serve as a touchstone for the author and publisher throughout the editing process. It provides interventions when schedule or budget does not allow for a full developmental edit. Chapter equality with editing for pace with restructuring and transitions are used. How moving a conclusion from one place to another can lead to entirely different effects. With structure in place, ways of prose is used to help authors achieve their unique voice in prose. Opportunities to illustrate concepts and to express data visually, and extra touches to add luster, web pages are discussed. The sequences of stages may occur simultaneously or frequently and others may be inapplicable to specific projects. Techniques presented can be adapted to personal styles and advice discarded if it does not resonate. There is no one way to perform a developmental edit but first learn to master the rules. The tools given in this book are clear and in sequence with much more valuable instruction to read. I highly recommend this book. I own a copy.

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