

Nonfiction

Genre-specific Self-editing

At S. Rénā + Co. Editorial Boutique, we know self-evaluating a nonfiction manuscript is a crucial step in the writing process to ensure your work is clear, coherent, and engaging for readers. Before getting it into the hands of your peers for a beta read, be sure to take some time to dig a little deeper, particularly for developmental editing. The self-developmental edit is most beneficial when you separate yourself from the story and focus on being the reader instead of the writer.

Here are some steps to help you self-evaluate your nonfiction manuscript effectively:

1. **Take a Break:** Set your manuscript aside for a few days or weeks to gain fresh perspective before starting the evaluation.
2. **Review Your Material:** Revisit the outline or structure you created before writing the manuscript. Ensure that the content flows logically and follows the intended organization.
3. **Assess the Introduction:** The introduction is the first impression you make on readers. Check if it hooks the readers, presents the main idea, and outlines the purpose of the manuscript.
4. **Evaluate Content and Research:** Check the accuracy and relevance of the information presented in your manuscript. Verify facts and sources, ensuring your arguments are supported by credible evidence.
5. **Analyze Clarity and Coherence:** Read through each chapter and section to assess how well ideas and concepts are communicated. Ensure sentences and paragraphs are clear, and ideas flow logically from one to another.
6. **Check for Consistency:** Ensure that the tone, style, and voice remain consistent throughout the manuscript. Avoid abrupt shifts that may confuse readers.
7. **Assess Supporting Materials:** If your manuscript includes charts, graphs, images, or other visual aids, verify that they are relevant, properly cited, and enhance the understanding of the content.
8. **Review Conclusion and Call-to-Action:** The conclusion should summarize the key points and restate the main message. If applicable, include a call-to-action or a compelling closing thought for readers.
9. **Address Reader Engagement:** Evaluate whether your manuscript maintains the reader's interest and keeps them engaged. Make sure the information is presented in a way that captures the readers' attention.

10. **Consider Flow and Transitions:** Ensure smooth transitions between sections and chapters. Use transition words and phrases to guide readers through the content seamlessly.
11. **Eliminate Repetition:** Identify and eliminate any unnecessary repetition of information or concepts that may distract readers.
12. **Seek Feedback:** Share your manuscript with trusted friends, colleagues, or beta readers for their input. Consider their feedback and make necessary revisions.
13. **Proofreading:** After addressing content-related issues, proofread the manuscript for grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors.
14. **Consider the Reader's Perspective:** Put yourself in the reader's shoes and evaluate if the manuscript meets their needs and expectations.
15. **Revise and Edit:** Based on your self-evaluation and feedback, make necessary revisions and edits to improve your nonfiction manuscript.

Remember, self-evaluation is an iterative process, and it may take several rounds of revisions to polish your manuscript to its best form. Whether preparing for a developmental edit, copy/line edit or proofreading, be patient and thorough in your evaluation. It is essential for creating a compelling and impactful nonfiction work, regardless of the stage you're in. For a one-on-one review, please complete an inquiry at www.shaundalerena.com/contact.