# Standard Manuscript Format

Stop making your editor, alpha readers, beta readers, and critique partners suffer.

Please, for the love of god, save the special formatting for AFTER editing. Stop trying to get cute with your formatting software. Editors do not care what font choice you spent 67 hours deciding on. We want a clean, easy-to-read document that won't make our eyes bleed or heads ache.

**This is Standard Manuscript Format:**

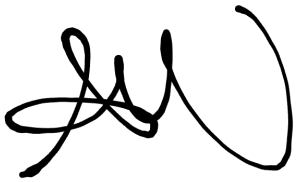
1. *Choose one*: **Times New Roman** or **Courier**
2. **12 pt.** *Yes, the entire thing.*
3. **DOUBLE SPACED**. *No exceptions. This is the rule.*
4. 1-inch margins on all sides
5. Indent the first line of every paragraph: .5"
6. Top-right header should include: "LAST NAME / TITLE/ Page #" < *exactly like that*
7. Scene breaks: "#" or "***" or a blank line. Keep it consistent.
8. Title page, centered:

   TITLE
   Author name
   Email
   Address
   Word count (*often optional, always helpful*)

Think of this as your working manuscript's hygiene rules. Yes, when your book goes to print or becomes an ebook, it will look totally different—fonts, spacing, margins, and scene breaks will all get a makeover during formatting. That's fine. But **until formatting begins, your working copy needs to be clean**, consistent, and professional.

Why? Because editors, beta readers, and agents aren't just reading your words—they're scanning your structure, pacing, and clarity. Messy formatting creates distractions, and makes your manuscript harder to follow.

With Love,



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