

TAA Teleconference, Wednesday, March 10, 2 p.m. EST

Fresh Eyes: How Working with an Editor Can Improve Your Work

by Laura Poole

Handout

Types of Editors and What they Do

- *Developmental editor* does substantive work, making sure that the organization of the book makes sense, the sections are complete, and material is appropriate.
- *Technical editor* checks technical information, such as math equations or computer code, to make sure it is correct.
- *Copy editor* (or line editor) does the last edit before typesetting, checking grammar, word usage, spelling, punctuation, house style, clarity, and light fact-checking.
- *Proofreader* checks and corrects the material after it has been typeset, checking for things the the copyeditor might have missed and making sure the typesetter laid everything out correctly (no major changes at this stage).

Why Work with (and Hire) an Editor?

- Improvement of text
- Fresh ideas
- Stronger product
- Overall writing improvement
- Increased chances of acceptance for publication
- Building professional reputation

Learning from an Editor

- Style suggestions
- Finding (and strengthening) your writing weaknesses
- Creating powerful text
- Using appropriate support materials (tables, figures, notes)

Finding an Editor to Hire

- Your publisher may have suggestions for you if you request a name from their pool of freelancers
- Referrals from other writers
- TAA associate members (such as Archer Editorial Services, Ann Greenberger, AuthorAssist, and more listed at the TAA site.
- LinkedIn and other sites (search)
- What to look for when hiring: experience working with textbooks, availability (lead time), perhaps subject matter knowledge (not always necessary).