

## *What Kinds of Freelance Editors Are There?*

Editors go by many different titles. Here are job descriptions of the four main types of editors you will come across, along with their alternate names and how much you can expect to pay when you hire them.

### **Book coaches**

**Manuscripts in progress.** Focus your writing and shape the overall direction of the book. May work with you from inception. Can guide you through the publishing process or for just a few months until you have your writing on track. Also called book shepherd.

Average rates: \$100 to \$300 per 1.5-hour session

### **Developmental editors**

**Very big picture.** Shape the content of the book. Review organization of the book as a whole as well as organization within chapters; highlight areas that need work, need rewriting, require expansion, stray from topic. May overlap with copyediting. Also called content editing.

Average rates: \$10 to \$15 per manuscript page, or \$45 to \$65 an hour

### **Copyeditors**

**Big picture.** Work with completed manuscripts. Fix errors of grammar, punctuation, style, consistency, sense, as well as flow of paragraphs and word choice. Highlight further areas of development. Will do some rewriting; query places that don't work, don't make sense, don't say what you think they say. Can overlap with development. Also called line editing.

Average rates: \$4 to \$10 per manuscript page, or \$18 to \$35 an hour

### **Proofreaders**

**Finer details.** Catch whatever the copyeditor may have missed. Fix grammar, punctuation, style, consistency, sense. Very little rewriting. Usually pages have been typeset so making changes becomes costly and time-consuming. For best results, do NOT use the same person to copyedit and proofread your work.

Average rates: \$2 to \$5 per typeset page, or \$15 to \$25 an hour