



Wyrddhoard

Services for Writers

Price List for Editorial Services by Sørina Higgins

Ghostwriting:

According to Forbes, “Ghostwriting is the crafting of an individual’s words into polished prose that reads as authentically as if the named author spoke them directly onto the page.” If I were to Ghostwrite for you, the author—my client, you—would be responsible for the content, ideas, purpose, and goals of the book, while I would be responsible for the words that best communicate your ideas. You’d do the research, brainstorm the content, and draft the manuscript, then you’d come to me and ask me to shape it into a polished, professional product. You are the expert in the subject; I’d bring my expertise in well-crafted prose. At every step of the way, you would control *what* you say: I would suggest *how* to say it most effectively. If I read your initial manuscript and discern that Coaching and Developmental Editing would not produce a professional final project, I may suggest this ghostwriting approach. It is traditional for Ghostwriters to remain anonymous; however, if you choose, you may mention me in your Acknowledgements as your “Writing Consultant,” or you may decide to put my name on the cover in small font after your name, following the word ‘with,’ indicating co-authorship. It can be hard to determine pricing for Ghostwriting since the workload can vary depending on the number of revisions you would like. A rough pricing scheme based on the number of words in the *final* manuscript might be:

[X# of words] @ \$0.15 per word + [X# of meetings] @ \$125/hr

Coaching:

I do not serve as a Developmental Editor or Beta Reader on manuscripts that reveal the need for substantive education about the writing process and/or standard writing conventions. Instead, as your Writing Coach, I would serve as a combination of teacher, editor, and cheerleader. I would mark up your text thoroughly and hold regular tutorial sessions in which you and I would discuss the rationale behind each of my revision suggestions. We’d debate the principles of good writing and practice them until you became confident you could apply them throughout the text and in any future writing. This approach would enable you to *develop as a writer* in addition to vastly and dramatically improving one manuscript. At this level, I request a mention in your Acknowledgements as your Writing Coach or Writing Consultant and (depending upon the extent of my revisions) possibly my name on the cover in small font after your name, following the word ‘with,’ indicating co-authorship.

c. 500 words/hour @ \$125/hour + regular tutorial meetings @ \$125/hr

Developmental Editing:

As a Developmental Editor, I nurture a book or other project, working closely with the author on large-scale revisions, including re-organization, adding or cutting content, changing the focus, crafting the tone, and more. I meet with the client to discuss paragraph structuring, transitions, diction, originality, stylistics, and more. This approach results in a more powerful, higher-quality book that can reach a larger audience over a longer time. When I edit at this level, I mark up the text itself using tracked changes and inserted comments, but I do not rewrite the material myself (that's Ghostwriting). Note that once a manuscript has gone through Developmental Editing, it will still require Beta Reading, Line Editing, Copy Editing, and Proofreading. At this level, I request a mention in your Acknowledgments as your Developmental Editor or Writing Consultant (your choice of phrasing).

c. 3,000 words per hour @ \$125/hour + meetings @ \$125/hr

Beta Reading:

As a Beta Reader, I offer a swift assessment of your book (or other project) identifying mistakes, plot holes, inconsistencies, fallacies, weak parts, cliché, and unclear sections. I provide the client with large-scale suggestions for revision relating to content, organization, clarity, focus, etc. I would do not mark the text itself during Beta Reading; instead, I write up a separate document with my recommendations, and then I meet with the author upon request to discuss my suggestions. A list of frequent stylistic errors can be included upon request for an additional fee. Note that Beta Reading does not replace other elements of the editing process and must be done in conjunction with Developmental Editing, Line Editing, and Copy Editing; it can often reveal areas to address during Developmental Editing or Coaching. At this level, I request a mention in your Acknowledgments as a Beta Reader.

c. 5,000 words per hour @ \$125/hour + a one-hour meeting @ \$125/hr

Line Editing:

If I were to do Line Editing on your manuscript, I would examine the writing style at the level of paragraphs and sentences. I would not comment on the organization, content, or other large-scale elements (that's Developmental Editing). I would not go hunting for mistakes or typos (that's Proofreading); rather, I would mark up your sentences and paragraphs extensively, paying close attention to diction and syntax. The point is to tidy up stylistics to make your ideas shine through. I don't perform this service unless a manuscript is ready for it in terms of content, organization, mastery of basic grammar, and so forth. At this level, I request a mention in your Acknowledgments as a Line Editor.

c. 4,000 words per hour @ \$125/hour

Copy Editing:

From the Editorial Freelancers Association: "Copyeditors correct spelling, grammar, usage, and punctuation, check cross-references, and prepare the style sheets that guide consistency and accuracy across the manuscript." All other necessary edits should be completed before Copy

Editing occurs. According to MasterClass, “Line editing comes before copy editing. Where line editors are concerned primarily with questions of style, copy editors are concerned with mechanics. A copy editor ensures that the language in a manuscript follows the rules of standard English and adheres to the house style guide.” At this level, I will mark up your manuscript as necessary, using inserted comments and tracked changes, but only to correct errors of grammar, spelling, usage, punctuation, citation, formatting, and other technical stylistics; I will not comment on diction, syntax, organization, content, or other large-scale elements. Furthermore, I will not perform this service unless a manuscript is ready for it, showing evidence of having gone through the other levels successfully. At this level, I request a mention in your Acknowledgments as a Copy Editor.

c. 4,000 words per hour @ \$125/hour

I do not offer proofreading services...

But I can recommend [people who do!](#)

Upon request, I’m happy to provide a **1,000-word** or **one-hour sample** of my work at any of these levels, billed at the rates listed above, so that you can see exactly what I do and decide which level is best for you. Whatever you choose, we can work out a payment plan that’s comfortable for you. Again, I’m flexible and am here to serve your needs, so please let me know how these options sound to you. We can craft something that fits your budget, timeline, and priorities.

I look forward to continuing this conversation and working with you on your manuscript!

~ *Sorina Higgins*