

Deborah Halverson, Editorial Services

Award-Winning Author & Veteran Editor

Description of Services

Deborah specializes in two kinds of editing: substantive and line editing. Substantive editing is appropriate when an author is looking for general feedback about overall pacing, organization, voice, etc. A line edit is the approach used when those larger issues are already sound and a line-by-line, word-by-word focus is needed to make the writing tight and clear.

Covered in substantive editing:

Narrative voice

Plot development/narrative arc

Pacing

Organization

Characterization/character arc

Point of view

Setting

Delivery of background information

Visual storyline (picture books only)

Read-aloud quality (picture books only)

Youthful sensibility

Age-appropriate subject matter and target audience

Covered in line editing:

Cutting/tightening of sentences, paragraphs, entire chapters

Word choice

Active verbs

Rhythm

Sentence variety

Identification of passive construction

Preservation of author's distinct voice and personal style

Dialogue

Chapter/section breaks

Grammar/mechanics

Query letter review services also available.

DEBORAH spent a decade editing children's books at Harcourt Children's Books and is now an



award-winning author, freelance editor, and writing instructor for groups and institutions including the University of California, San Diego, Extended Studies Program. She's written the craft books *Writing Young Adult Fiction For Dummies* and *Writing New Adult Fiction*, teen novels *Honk If You Hate Me* and *Big Mouth*, leveled books for struggling readers, and picture books. Bringing to bear almost twenty-five years of publishing experience, Deborah edits picture books and middle grade, young adult, new adult, and adult fiction and nonfiction on a freelance basis. She is also the founder of the popular writers' advice site DearEditor.com and serves on the advisory board for the UC San Diego Extension "Children's Book Writing and Illustrating" certificate program.

Deborah@DeborahHalverson.com
www.DeborahHalverson.com
www.DearEditor.com

The Editorial Process

Partial edits—In addition to full manuscript edits, Deborah offers partial substantive edits of novels covering one to four chapters. For details about partial edits, please email Deborah.

Delivery of unedited manuscript—Deborah prefers to receive manuscripts via e-mail but will receive manuscripts via U.S. Post by special arrangement. In those cases, do not include in an SASE, as Deborah will bill you the cost of return postage.

Estimate and confirmation—Deborah provides a time estimate for manuscripts based on word count, page length (double-spaced, 12pt font), and a review of the first five pages of the manuscript (novel) or the whole manuscript (picture book) in order to assess pacing and editorial needs. A Letter of Agreement will be signed by both Deborah and the author once details have been finalized.

The edit—Deborah marks up an electronic document using Word's "Track Changes" feature. For novels, she may mark up sample chapters or the entire manuscript, whichever she determines to be appropriate for the given project.

Cover letter—Deborah discusses general issues for the author to consider and expands on specific items marked in the manuscript.

Follow-up—Deborah will clarify or otherwise respond to authors after they've reviewed the cover letter and the edited ms.

Payment—Please send a check for the first half of the estimated time with your manuscript. Deborah will bill you the remainder of her fee and the cost of any return postage when she returns the edited manuscript. Alternatively, payments may be made to Deborah via www.PayPal.com.

Fees

\$125 per hour for substantive or line editing. Free estimate.

Deborah Halverson, Editorial Services

DeborahHalverson.com, Deborah@DeborahHalverson.com

Accolades

DEBORAH HALVERSON has been working with authors—bestsellers, debut, veterans, and aspiring—for almost twenty-five years. The books she's edited have garnered awards and topped bestseller lists, and many of the aspiring writers she's coached have secured agent representation and book deals.

"Deborah's feedback is smart and focused. She makes the kind of comments you can really do something with. My manuscript was sold at auction for a 2-book deal."

—*Jeff Hirsch, author, bestseller*
The Eleventh Plague & other YAs

"Deborah is not only an excellent, discerning, and responsive editor, she is also a great pleasure to work with. She has a fine command of language and a great sense of story."

—*Jean Ferris, author, Once Upon a Marigold & other YAs*

"Deborah is a crackerjack editor—creative, caring, clever—and those are just the C's."

—*Kathleen Krull, author,*
Harvesting Hope & other picture books

"My manuscript received two offers and both publishers agreed to have a 2-book offer.... Deborah's touch brought the book to a higher level."

—*Ji-li Jiang, author, Red Scarf Girl & other YAs & picture books*

"Deborah has a way of communicating her thoughts in a gently constructive way that makes sense. I incorporated her comments into the revision of my manuscript and landed a contract with Knopf."

—*Annemarie O'Brien, author,*
Dance with Borzois