

### *Choosing an External Editor*

Here are some guiding questions to consider asking an external editor prior to hiring them.

#### **What is your potential editor's experience in academic editing?**

There are different types of writing, and each type (novels, academic writing, web content) requires a different subset of writing (and editing) skills.

#### **Make sure that your potential editor is familiar with academic writing and editing and knows how to work within the particular format (APA 7th edition) required for your dissertation.**

A good method for determining that your potential editor is the right choice is to read testimonials, references, and recommendations from their previous clients. This is information that your potential editor ought to provide you.

If your editor has also written a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation themselves, you will know that they are familiar with this type of academic writing.

#### **What is the typical price point for your potential editor's service?**

Academic editors will either charge by the word, page, or hour. Rates are most typically by hour or by page.

If the editor charges by the page, their price will range between \$3-\$25 per page. Generally, prices fall between \$3 and \$7 per page, depending on the work involved.

#### **The more work your paper needs, the higher the price will typically be.**

Below is a list of what this breakdown might look like, but each editor will have their own pricing plan:

**Major revisions:** \$7 per page

**Line or copy edit:** \$6 per page

**Proofreading:** \$5 per page.

#### **Are there any student discounts available?**

It never hurts to ask if your potential editor provides student discounts!

#### **What is the turnaround time in general?**

A good turnaround time is **no more than two weeks**. However, in many cases, depending on how busy your potential editor is at the time, it could take as long as **three to four weeks** to



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complete your proposed project. It is important to keep this in mind when planning the completion of your project.

#### **Tips**

1. Always make sure that you and your chosen editor both have a written agreement of specific services to be delivered, a turnaround time, and an agreed-upon initial price quote.
2. Know how, when, and through which platform they wish to be paid.
3. If there are any amendments to the original proposal, make sure you get these in writing as well.
4. An agreement can be as complex as a formal contract, or both parties can simply agree in writing in an email or direct message upon the terms of service to be rendered.
5. Remember that if you need further editing, the work required will be considered a separate contract, and you may have to pay more during that time, depending on what your editor and you agree upon.
6. You should never have to pay for your initial consultation, which typically lasts between 30 and 45 minutes, and time should be allocated for voicing questions or concerns after editing is completed, again approximately 30 to 45 minutes.