

### 3. Self-editing is the process of correcting your own literary work before submitting it to a professional editor

#### editing your characters

Has your protagonist remained constant in his/her/it/their behavior?

Has your protagonist remained constant in his/her/it/their powerful emotions and motivations?

Has your protagonist remained constant in remaining inoffensive?

Is your antagonist believable?

Have any of your minor characters been allowed to take the story down a wrong path?

#### make the cut

cut portions of text that are extraneous to the plot and action

any character or element of your story that can be removed and is not missed does not belong there in the first place

belaboring your topic or showing off your research is useless

do not overuse exclamation points

eliminate purple prose

get rid of clichés

eliminate flowery phrases or metaphors that occur during key times

cut lengthy discussions that exist only to put information across

cut sentences that are flat, strained, awkward, obvious, pedestrian, forced, vague, or abstract

watch for overuse of adverbs and adjectives

watch for too much lecturing