

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

Self-Editing

leaving space on the page

it is visually inviting to the reader

it is an indication that dialogue is going on, and well written dialogue is the best avenue for keeping the pace moving in a story

a great book includes a good mix of narration and dialogue, showing and telling, active and passive, well maintained tense, non-wavering point of view, heavy moments and comic relief, etc.

beats & tags

beats are stage directions

beats describe the physical action a character makes when speaking

beats show instead of tell

tags tell the reader who said what and how

tags act as signposts to attribute dialogue to certain characters

each tag contains at least one speaker (noun or pronoun) and a verb indicating a way of speaking

so you have decided to write a series...

a series requires exceptional self-editing

you have to make certain your readers get a recap when each successive book reaches publication

your character has to have enough personality to make the correct impression—whether protagonist or antagonist—on new readers right from the character's introduction in each successive book

protagonists must be consistent in the way they behave