

Questions and Answers

What is a Completed Manuscript?

A completed manuscript is a work with a beginning, middle and end. The writer has established the general storyline and given consideration to various themes. The writing is relatively free of grammatical errors so as to not interrupt the flow of reading. The manuscript is typed in Times New Roman, 12 pt font, double-spaced, with paragraph indentations of five spaces (not tabs).

What is Developmental editing?

In very simple terms, a developmental editor reviews all aspects of the story you attempt to tell, and challenges the author on what makes sense and how the story might be told differently to create an effect. Think of it as a second set of eyes. A great explanation of the purpose behind developmental editing can be found here: <http://www.blurb.com/blog/why-we-all-need-a-developmental-editor/>.

What is a synopsis?

Writer's Digest defines a synopsis as a document that: *conveys the narrative arc, an explanation of the problem or plot, the characters, and how the book or novel ends. It ensures character actions and motivations are realistic and make sense. It summarizes what happens and who changes from beginning to end of the story. It gives agents a good and reliable preview of your writing skills.*

Jane Friedman recommends beginning with a strong paragraph identifying your protagonist, problem or conflict, and setting. The next paragraph should convey any major plot turns or conflicts necessary and any characters that should be mentioned in order for your book summary to make sense to whomever is reading it. Lastly, she recommends indicating how major conflicts are resolved in the last paragraph. This ensures a clear presentation of your book or novel and doesn't leave the reader confused.

There are many samples online. For the purpose of this class, the main goal is to communicate to the facilitators and other writers the general arc of your story, whether non-fiction or fiction.

What kind of feedback can I expect?

Participants/writers can expect non-judgmental critique in a supportive setting. Instruction will be offered on what elements to look for, as well as a model of a feedback session. For example, writers will be coached to discern what is the inciting incident, P.O.V. shifts, authentic dialogue and action, sense of place, time transitions.

How does this differ from the WWf(a)C Core Class small group feedback model?

In this workshop, participants desire more than *gut* and *heart* feedback, require a greater length of time to review and respond, and are considering the full work and not a single document. Participants are asked to delve further into another writer's work, and to speak with the writer in terms of the thought processes behind the work. Participants will share candid observations about a writer's work in a manner that will improve the manuscript and the writer's understanding of the direction of their work.

Additional questions? Email Annette Januzzi Wick at amjwick@gmail.com.