

Editing:

Revision: Some questions to ask yourself.

Overall structure. Is it clear? What is my theme? What motivates my characters? Is the pacing appropriate? Does each of the parts contribute to the whole? Are there parts of the story which should be thrown out? Are there parts which need more attention or need to be expanded?

Voice. Who is narrating the story? What is the point of view? [(first person, third person omniscient (knows all) objective (knows no more than the reader), or omniscient limited (may know the motivation of one character but not others)]. Is this the best point of view to tell the story with? Is the narrator's voice consistent (in terms of attitudes, education level, use of slang, etc.).

Character. Are my characters believable? Are they fully developed with believable foibles and motivations? Will the reader care about them? Do they act in accordance with who they are or are they a convenience to help move the plot?

Plot. What structure am I following (building, flashbacks, circling an important moment or event, non-chronological, converging, etc.)? Is it the best one to tell the story? What is my protagonist's problem? What are the things he/she does to try and solve it? What is the resolution?

Pacing. Do I have a strong beginning to hook my readers? Have I used verbs that speed up or slow the reader's pace according to the needs of the story? Have I created tension? Is my resolution appropriate to the story?

Dialogue. Does each of my characters speak with a distinctive voice? Does the dialogue contribute to the plot, moving the action forward, character development or the readers' understanding of the events or characters' motivation?

Prose. Have I varied my sentence structure? Is my prose rich and vivid without being overdone? Have I used metaphor and simile where appropriate?

Setting. Is the setting an integral part of the story? Have I used descriptive language effectively? Have I created atmosphere and mood where appropriate?

Grammar/Spelling. Have I proofed carefully?