How to use technology to make your editing process simple and efficient

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ProWritingAid

What we'll cover today:

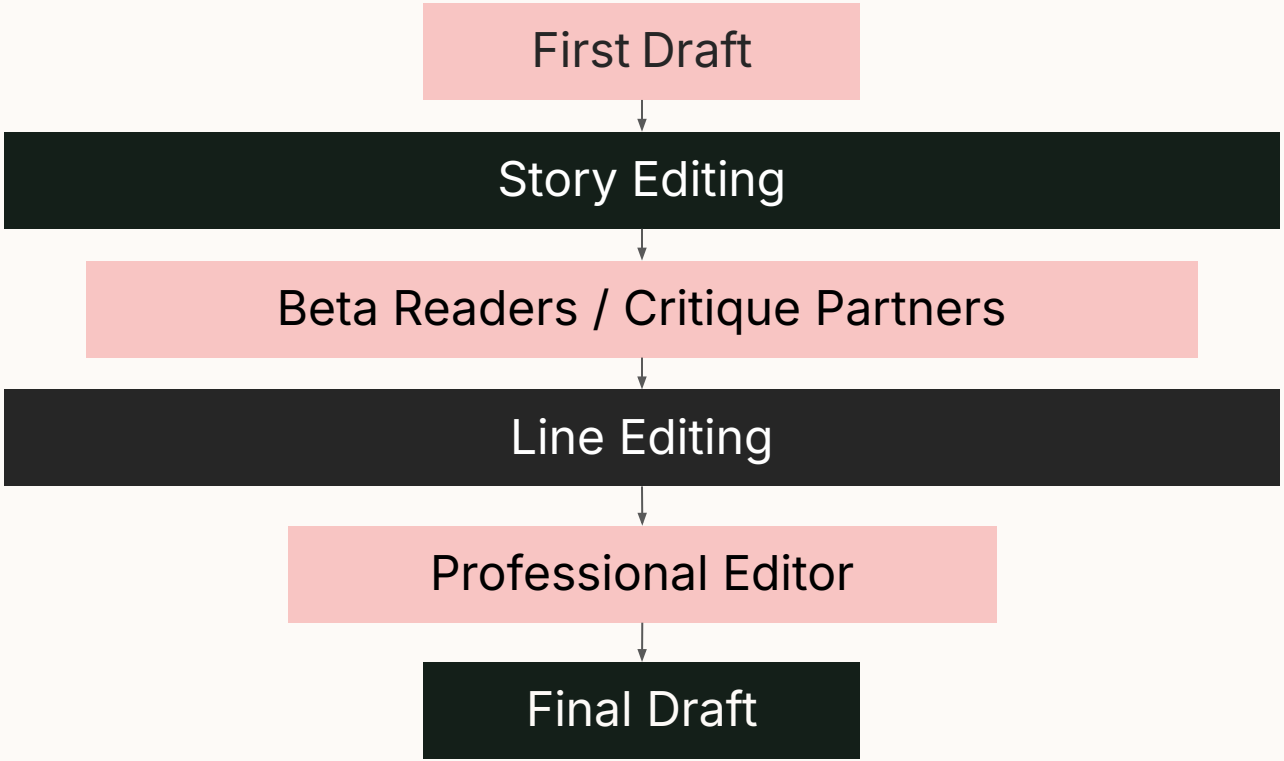
- What happens during the editing process
- Why technology is helpful for self-editing
- Using technology to support story (developmental) editing
- Using technology to support line editing
- Questions

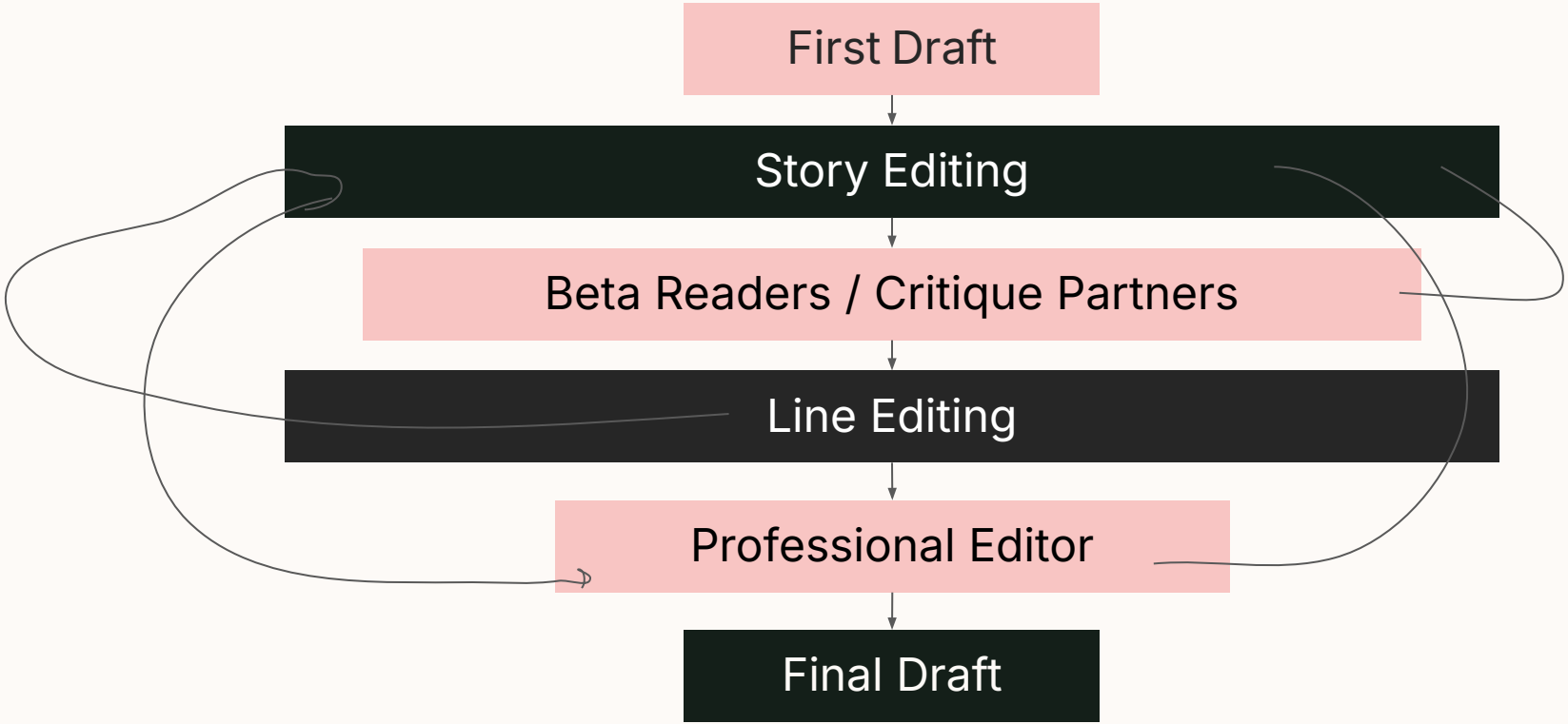
What happens during the editing process

Editing is where your story comes to life.

During the editing process, you will examine every aspect of your story: your plot, characters, settings, word choice, structure, and more.

Many writers dread the editing process because they’re not sure what to expect. Let’s look at a linear editing journey.


First Draft
Story Editing
Beta Readers / Critique Partners
Line Editing
Professional Editor
Final Draft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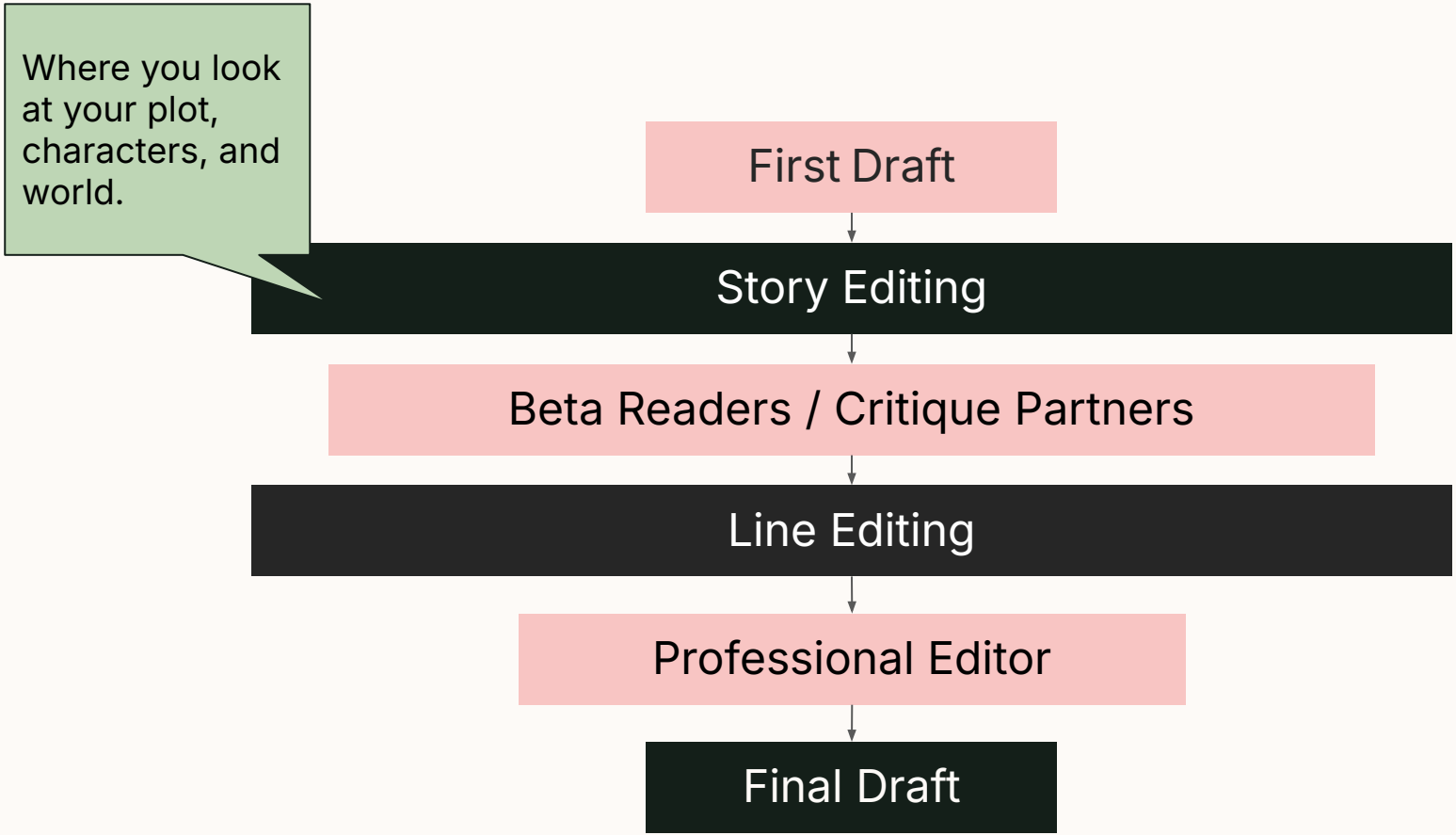
What makes a good editing process is up to you.

Some writers prefer to work by themselves the entire time. Some writers like to work with other people the entire time. Some like to use technology, some do not. Some will go through one round of revisions, some will go through dozens.

That’s all okay!



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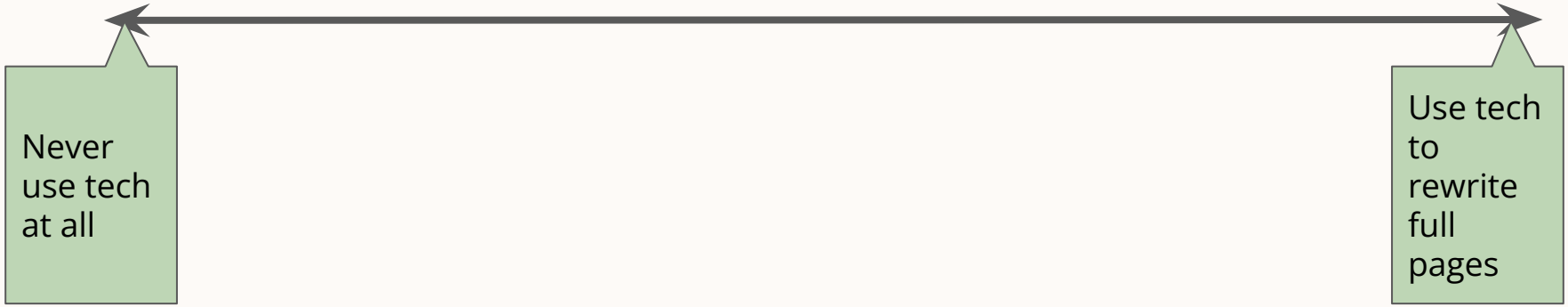
First Draft
Story Editing
Beta Readers / Critique Partners
Line Editing
Professional Editor
Final Draft
Where you look at how you're using language to convey your story.

Why technology is helpful for editing

Technology can save time and money.

Editing is challenging. It’s hard and expensive to find resources. Technology can help:

- Provide instant feedback
- Polish before you use a human editor
- Share difficult-to-find information



Using technology when you edit is a spectrum.

Using technology for story editing

What happens during story editing:

- Evaluate your manuscript and the story you're telling
- Substantive look at the structure and development of your story or argument

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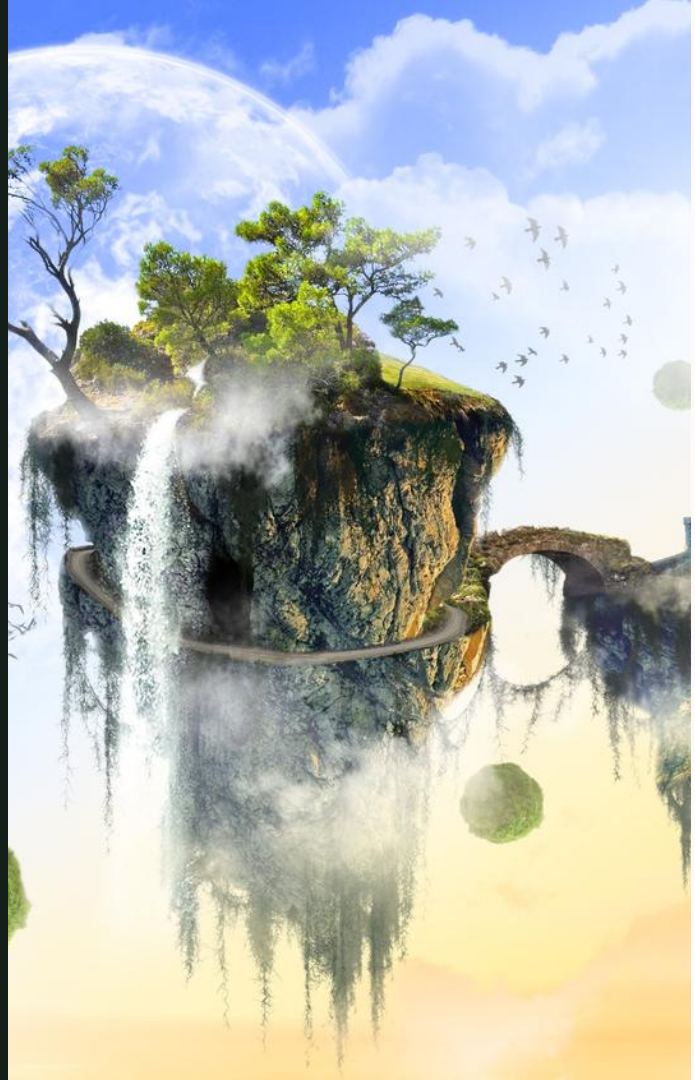

What to look for while editing your manuscript:

- Does your setting have not only an engaging location, but use of time, date, objects, and senses?
- Do your characters have clear goals and a recognizable point-of-view?
- Do you have effective arcs in each scene?

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Technology can support with story editing

There are many ways technology can support with line editing, depending on your goals and what you're comfortable with.

Technology can do everything from helping you simplify your sentences to identifying places where you have repeated yourself.

You can get an instant critique on your story.

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You can understand your use of sensory language.

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You can get suggestions for improving your details.

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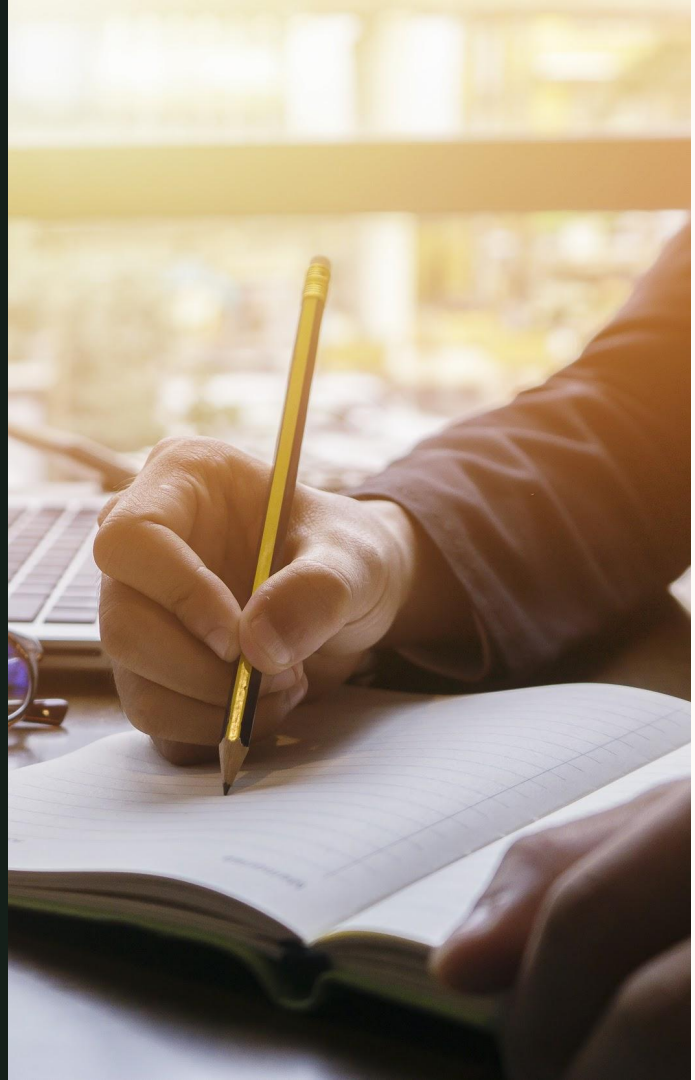
Using technology for line editing



What happens during line editing:

- When you look at the use of language to tell a clear and engaging story
- Assess word choice, readability, style
- Overall goal of clarity

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What to look for while editing your manuscript:

- Are your subjects and verbs the stars of your sentences?
- Is your writing readable for your audience?
- Are you choosing specific words that explain exactly what you’re trying to say?

What to look for while editing your manuscript:

- Have you kept up the pacing?
- Have you eliminated echoes and repeats?

Technology can support with line editing

There are many ways technology can support with line editing, depending on your goals and what you're comfortable with.

Technology can do everything from helping you simplify your sentences to identifying places where you have repeated yourself.

You can see how often you've repeated yourself.

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You can measure your readability.

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You can measure your readability.

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You can improve overly wordy sentences.

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You can get suggestions for rephrasing.

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Use technology to edit more effectively

Editing is difficult and time consuming.

You can use technology to speed up your editing process and make it more effective. Technology is an inexhaustible resource to support your journey.

Thank you!