

TELL YOUR STORIES LLC

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AFTER THE FIRST DRAFT

After completing the first draft of your book, you've reached a significant milestone, but there's still work to be done to bring your project to completion.

Here are the steps you can take to finish writing your book:

1. Celebrate

Before diving into revisions, take a moment to acknowledge the huge milestone you just completed!

2. Read Your Manuscript

Re-read your entire manuscript from start to finish. Take notes on what works and what needs improvement. Reading your work out loud is also a powerful way to hear the flow.

3. Revise and Rewrite

Begin the revision process. This involves going through your manuscript for clarity, coherence, and overall quality. The intention of the next two drafts will be to pull the manuscript together.

Focus on improving character development, plot consistency, pacing, and narrative flow.

Address any plot holes, inconsistencies, or unresolved storylines.

4. Seek Feedback*

Share your revised manuscript with beta readers or critique partners to get external feedback.

Use their input to make further improvements. Be open to constructive criticism.

*I recommend reading the Beta Readers PDF when you get to this step.

5. Post-feedback Revisions

Review the feedback you received to determine what is useful and put aside what isn't. Make any necessary revisions using the input from the beta readers.

6. Edit and Proofread

Edit for grammar, punctuation, spelling, and style. Ensure your writing is polished.

Carefully proofread or hire a professional proofreader to catch any remaining mistakes.

7. Read Your Manuscript Again

Read your entire manuscript again. This is the time to be decisive and claim your book is complete and ready for book production or choose to make any final adjustments.

8. Prepare Your Book for Production*

Production is when your book will be formatted for ebook, paperback printing, and distribution. It's also where your book cover will be created and finalized for printing and distribution.

*I recommend reading the Bits & Pieces of Self-Publishing PDF when you get to this step.