

The Four Phases of Fiction & Narrative Non-Fiction Assistance

Outlined below are the four distinct phases through which we work with writers of fiction and narrative non-fiction. This four-part format allows you to ensure you are receiving the help you need before continuing; by following these sequential steps, we can be with you from first draft to book deal. Each phase can be accomplished with the help of one or both of the principals at BOOK ARCHITECTURE.

PHASE ONE

Depending on the length of the manuscript, we will create a written critique of 7-10 pages describing both the macro and micro issues within the narrative. Macro issues include such material as:

- scenes that are missing, too long, or tangential
- the ordering of dramatic information for maximum impact
- discovering the true theme & ensuring the plot and cast of characters reflect this theme
- an analysis of the authorial voice, including any intrusions where the “dream” is broken

While we do not copyedit your work during this phase, the micro section of the critique includes commentary on any of your writing “tics”: recurring stylistic challenges or grammatical errors in dialogue, punctuation, word choice, or spelling. This phase includes a 1–2 hour meeting (in-person or by phone) to clarify all material contained in the critique.

PHASE TWO

In this phase, we function as both coach and editor. In other words: you are not alone! With reference to The Book Architecture Method (introduced in Phase One), we will review your revised material as it is generated and continue the conversation with written feedback. Check-in meetings are a feature of Phase Two, with live discussions regarding any new challenges as well as reflections on problems that have been conclusively solved. At the end of this phase, we prepare a second (3-5 page) review of your manuscript.

PHASE THREE

This phase introduces your material to the marketplace. Depending on your genre and your platform, this could be a query letter to agents, a five page synopsis of the work, creation of website copy or other promotional literature and tips on networking in the industry. “Sell material” akin to the elements of a non-fiction book proposal can also be useful in this phase, including such sections as: about the author, competitive titles, marketing & promotion, about the audience, and an overview.

PHASE FOUR

We recognize that when a writer has found a great literary agent, fresh changes to their manuscript may be necessary. Again: when the right publisher for the work is found, additional revisions may be required. We remain present as your mirror and confidante, seeing your work all the way through to its completion. Most people are delighted when they get to this phase!