

# My Editing Checklist

What to look for/thoughts on these

## Beginning Hook:

Do I want to continue reading after the first paragraph? After the first chapter? Why?

## Character Development:

1. Whose story is this?

2. Characters

### Protagonist 1: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Internal GMC

They want \_\_\_\_\_ because  
\_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_ therefore  
\_\_\_\_\_.

#### External GMC

They want \_\_\_\_\_ because  
\_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_ therefore  
\_\_\_\_\_.

### Protagonist 2: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Internal GMC

They want \_\_\_\_\_ because  
\_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_ therefore  
\_\_\_\_\_.

#### External GMC

They want \_\_\_\_\_ because  
\_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_ therefore  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**Antagonist:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Internal GMC**

They want \_\_\_\_\_ because  
\_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_ therefore  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**External GMC**

They want \_\_\_\_\_ because  
\_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_ therefore  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**Plot**

1. **What is the story question?**
  
2. **What's at stake?**
  
3. **Where's the sense of urgency?**
  
4. **What is your (the author's) premise or theme?** (a big idea that the author wants to say about life, a generalization)

**What is the if/then? (if X happens then Y will happen)** (ex: Facing an impossible choice can help you discover who you really are. If you open yourself to a second chance you may be surprised by what is still possible.)

5. **Plot out the Narrative Structure**
  - a. Inciting incident:
  
  - b. Major Turning Point:
  
  - c. Rising Action:
  
  - d. Crisis:
  
  - e. Climax (black moment):
  
  - f. Resolution

## Romance

- Is it believable?
- Romantic?
- More happens in the sex scene than just sex?

## Character Growth

- Do the characters have clear goals?
- How do they grow by the end of the story?

## Pacing

- Fast?
- Slow?
- Any place where it needs to speed up or slow down?

## Dialogue

- Believable and natural?

## World Building

- Everything logical?
- Any rules broken?
- Believable?

## Point of View

- First person or third?
- Who's pov is the story in?
- How many povs are there?
- Head-hopping?
- Deep enough?

## Show and Tell

- Are emotions shown not told?
- Are there places when there should be telling instead of showing?