

AP/WRIT 3.0 Substantive Editing

Course Description

Substantive editing is the assessment and revision of the structure (organization, content) and style (clarity, flow, language) of book-length manuscripts and articles for journals and magazines. Students will gain experience in the hands-on techniques and best practices for editing various types of texts to improve voice, style, organization, argumentation, and length. Since the goal of the substantive editor is to ensure that the author's work achieves its intended purpose – determined by the author, the publisher, and the market – the relationship between the editor and the author, and between the editor and the publisher, is extremely important. Thus, the structure, style and tone of communication from the editor to the author and the publisher will also be addressed in this course. Classes will consist of lectures, in-class exercises and activities, and lively discussion.

Course Objectives

- Learn the rationale, objectives and standards for a substantive edit
- Understand the range of substantive editing and its relationship to stylistic editing and copy editing.
- Learn techniques for and gain experience in assessing and revising documents for length, audience, organization and style
- Recognize the importance of communication in the editing role and process