



FREE MACRO-EDITING

guide

for your fiction novel

MADISONGRACEAUTHOR.COM

FREE MACRO-EDITING GUIDE

From Madison Grace at [madisongraceauthor.com](https://www.madisongraceauthor.com)

introduction

Thanks for downloading my free guide to macro-editing! I hope this helps guide you through the process of checking your novel's plot, characterization, and structure.

If you have any questions, I would love to help. Don't ever hesitate to reach out to me here: madisongraceauthor.com/contact

what is a macro edit?

The word "macro" means "large-scale; overall", as opposed to "micro"—"small-scale".

Instead of hunting for typos, fixing sentences, or tightening paragraphs and dialog, you're ignoring all of that for right now.

You're merely focused on the *plot* and *character* of your story.

Plot holes, plot problems, character arcs, problems with the characters, wacky structure... all that kind of stuff.

There's nothing worse than making each word on a page sound perfect and then discovering you need to rewrite it completely when you do a macro edit.

So start with the big stuff first. Discover what's wrong with the plot, character arcs, and your story's structure. Once all of that is pretty solid (you'll know after a few rounds of beta readers and macro edits), you can get right to work on tightening dialog and making each word awesome.

Before you conduct a macro edit, most editors advise you to take a break from your novel. The break should be long enough for you to distance yourself from your story so that when you come back to edit, you can look at it with fresh eyes. For me, my break was a month long, but it should've been longer... I was always thinking about coming back to my novel!

You'll know how long of a break from your story is right for you. But once the break is over, get right back to your story!

step 1:

the read-through

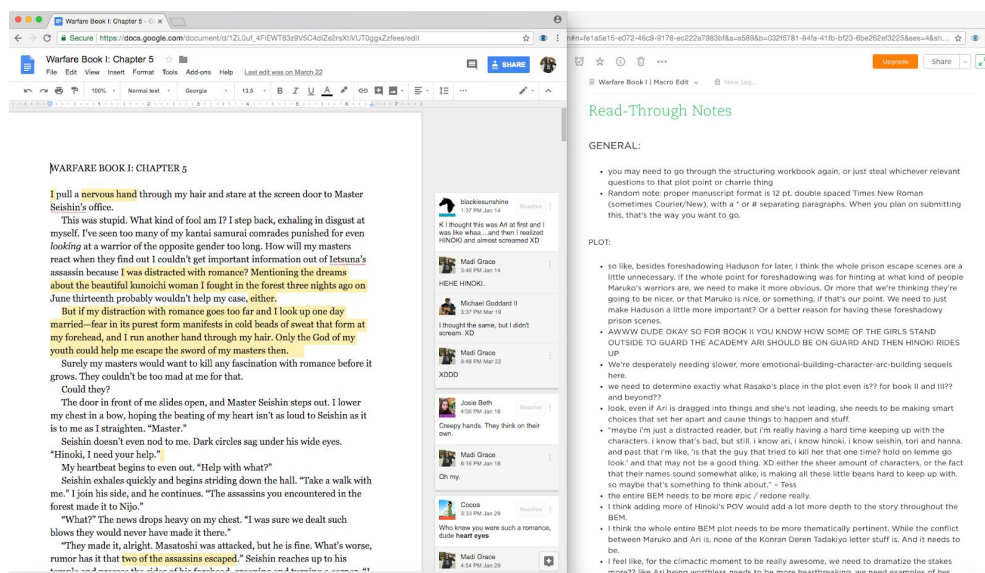
This is the first step of the macro edit. All you're doing is reading through your novel in its entirety, from start to finish.

Don't stop to change anything. All you have to do is simply take notes on the plot and character arcs as you read.

I did this chapter-by-chapter with my novel on one screen and then a document for notes on the other. It looked like this:

novel

notes



pro tip:

I had a few different sections in which I took notes:

- General / Random
- Plot
- Character
- Research

And then notes for each individual scene, marking which chapters they took place in.

This way, I'm able to easily find what note is for what part of my novel.

Organizing your notes into sections or categories will help you in the next step.

step 2:

the revisions list

Once you've read through your entire novel and have all your notes, it's now time to organize them into a list.

Since I didn't know what order to organize them in, I asked the question on a young writer's program I'm a part of. I was advised to organize my list in order from the biggest problems to the smallest ones.

For example, in my notes, I know I need to completely re-brainstorm a big mission that took up 25% of the plot. Because the mission is also a mystery and there are important details and clues I need to foreshadow earlier in the book, this is one of the big things I have to re-outline first.

Then, I can move on to the next-biggest things, like re-outlining the main characters' arcs.

Rachelle Rea Cobb, an editor whom I first learned about the macro edit from, says you can bounce around in any order or simply start at the top of your list and work your way down. It's up to you, but it might make more

sense for your novel—and how many problems you've noted—to start with re-outlining the big stuff and then working your way down to the smaller stuff.

step 3:

the rewrite

This is the last step of the macro edit! Once you've gotten all your plot and character problems solved / outlined, you can start revising.

This is easiest if you're an outliner, like me. I do a final outline of my book scene-by-scene, so once I've brainstormed the answers to all of my novel's problems, I rewrite my scene outline.

Once that's finished, and I've updated it with any additional research, I start writing the next draft.

That's the most efficient way I've found to write, and I highly recommend it. But as each writer's writing process is different, find the one that works for you! Just don't be afraid to experiment.

conclusion:

That's it; those are the three steps to the macro edit.

You'll probably conduct multiple rounds of these macro edits as you continue refining your draft. Enlisting beta readers will help you out immensely; I had an amazing team of readers whose notes helped me craft my revisions list.

Once you've gotten your plot, structure, and character arcs solid, you can move on to the micro edit: tightening paragraphs, making dialog pop, and fixing those typos.

But for now, focus on the big picture and make appropriate changes before zooming in to the tiny details.

If you have any questions, I would love to help. Don't hesitate to contact me here: madisongraceauthor.com/contact



Madison Grace is a blogger, writer, doll collector, and minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In addition to traveling and speaking to youth, she blogs about living an undefeated lifestyle at madigrace.org, professional doll collecting at delightfulworldofdolls.com, and writing excellent moral fiction at madisongraceauthor.com.

Whether you're at this macro-editing stage in your work-in-progress or just wanted to check out what I had to say, thank you for reading!

For more writing tips and updates about my historical fiction series of epics, come check out my site [Madison Grace \(Author\)](http://Madison Grace (Author)).

Pointing to Jesus with Excellent Moral Fiction,

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