

Worksheet for Finding an Editor

- 1) Write down what type of edit you're looking for. Be specific in what you want the editor to do for you.

- 2) What is your budget?

- 3) Which authors can you approach for editor recommendations?

- 4) List recommendations you received from authors:

- 5) What mentors or teachers can you approach for possible recommendations?

- 6) List recommendations you received from mentors, teachers, etc.

- 7) If you have a literary agent, which editors does he recommend?

- 8) What books in your genre do you admire?

- 9) Which have won awards or made bestseller lists?

- 10) Which have a similar feel to yours?

- 11) List the editors found in the acknowledgments of the books you wrote down in steps eight, nine, and ten. Take note of editors who are mentioned more than once.

12) What online resources will you visit for possible recommendations?

13) List the editors you find at each online source:

14) Merge all your lists into one. Put editors whose names come from multiple sources at the top of your list.

15) Continue ordering your list based on the importance you assign to each source.

16) Take the top ten or so on your list and, for each, ask or confirm:

- They do the type of edit you're looking for.
- Their price *range* for that type of edit fits within your budget.
 - If it's well beyond your budget, take them off your list. If it's in or near your budget, go on with the next questions.
 - If your top-ten choices are all out of your price range, keep working down your list of editors. If no editor fits within your budget, determine if your requirements—or your budget—needs adjusting.
- They've worked in your genre.
- They've worked on books that have been published.
- They can give you references from satisfied clients.

17) Evaluate everything you receive from the editors you're considering.

18) List your top-choice editor along with two or three others as a backup.