



Manuscript assessment – information for authors

You've written something that you think is ready for submitting to a publisher. You just need to ensure that it is as great as it can be. You have been working on this for a while now and are too close to the project to continue to be objective about its greatness. It's time to get some advice about the project.

What is a manuscript assessment?

The manuscript assessment provides a detailed report on all aspects of the work including the following:

- Point of view
- Narrative voice
- Dialogue
- Characterisation
- Plot development
- Spelling and grammar (not in detail as this is done at editing stage)
- General structure
- Anything else you deem relevant.

What do you need to submit?

It's helpful to get a broad idea of the work and your intention for its future. With that in mind, your submission should include:

- A one-page synopsis (250–300 words)
- Word count
- The complete manuscript in a Word document (1.5 line spacing, via email)
- Specific areas to consider/focus on if appropriate
- The genre you expect the work to fall into (fantasy, crime, thriller, literary, etc.)
- What book is a comparison title to yours?
- Target market (a description of your readers – age, demographic, interests, gender, etc.)
- A few words about you and your writing
- Publication – are you seeking

- a traditional commercial publisher
- self-publishing
- a literary agent
- have a publisher in mind
- a few copies for family reading only.

The manuscript assessment report

You will receive a written report that addresses the components of the work (as listed above), provides feedback on suggested ways to improve the structure, writing or style, and provides examples of where/what to improve. The report will address other issues such as general appeal of the story, is it new and different, will it appeal to the target readers, is there a hook. It will discuss its strengths and areas that need work.

The report only provides feedback on your writing; the report will not provide insider information on how to get a literary agent or a publisher for your work (there is no such thing as insider information on how to get published but we encourage you to pursue this process yourself). The report will be returned to you within four to six weeks.

Follow-up support

When you receive your report, you should read it as soon as you can. If you need clarification of any of the points in the report, you can follow up with specific questions up to two weeks after receipt of the report. Further questions will not be answered after this point. Responses are provided via email only.

Manuscript assessment rates

| Word count / Length | Rate |
|--|---------|
| Up to 20,000 words | \$450 |
| 20,000 – 50,000 words | \$600 |
| 50,000 – 80,000 words | \$800 |
| 80,000 – 100,000 words | \$1,000 |
| Sample assessment (up to 10,000 words) | \$300 |

Fees are indicative and may vary depending on the length and complexity of the manuscript. Payment for all assessments is due before the commencement of the service. The full fee will always be required before delivery of the report/editorial mark-up. An invoice will be sent on agreement of the service.