

Editing Your Manuscript Getting Down and Dirty

- I. Process—write 1st draft first—as fast as you can—don’t edit at this stage**
- II. Prayerful attitude**
- III. Getting Down and Dirty**
 - 1. Digging Deep Fundamentals—**
 - a. Spell Check
 - b. Avoid char names with same initial letter
 - c. Deep POV—name, he, she, gender/prof viewpoint “amethyst vs purple”
 - d. Dialogue—FAS
 - e. 5 Senses
 - f. Said—eliminate tags with beats
 - g. Lists
 - h. –ing/-ly
 - i. Toward, forward, backward
 - j. White space—dialogue vs narrative
 - k. Sentence Structure
 - l. Vary Opening Paragraphs
 - 2. Scene/Chapter Purpose**
 - a. What time/season/day since last scene? Have you grounded reader?
 - b. What happens? What did you want to accomplish? Did you?
 - c. Where?
 - d. Whose POV?
 - e. Who else there? Why? What do they want?
 - f. How advance plot? Char dev?
 - 3. Active Verbs—Reword “to be” verbs if possible**
 - 4. Weasel Word search and replace**
 - 5. Body Language—How can I do it better?**
 - a. Amping emotive conflict
 - b. Romantic tension/undertones
 - 6. Turn of phrase—eloquence/tighten/shape**
 - 7. Verify research questions**
 - 8. Word to Speech**
 - 9. Rinse and Repeat with all other chapters—Print—Read out loud**
 - a. 1st to last
 - b. Last to first