



Kris McCormick

Freelance Book Editor and Writing Coach

I help beginner, early career, and self-publishing authors define, refine, and achieve their writing and publication goals on their terms.



How long have you been a freelance book editor and writing coach?

I've been freelancing for 7 years, but opened my own company (Green Pen Editorial) in 2023.

Where do you currently work?

Green Pen Editorial (<https://greenpeneditorial.com>)

How do you spend most of your time at work?

- 1) Providing developmental editing, line editing, copy editing, and proofreading services to clients
- 2) Coaching writers from the first hints of ideas through to full understanding of the project's scope, nature, genre, style, themes and purpose, and key players, locations, and events
- 3) Researching the latest publishing industry news, trends, and opportunities to share with clients

Why did you choose this career?

Books and storytelling have been a lifelong passion, and I've spent the last 15+ years studying the craft because words are power – the ones you read, write, and tell yourself. Everyone has a voice and learning how to harness its power will get you anywhere you want to go.

What did you do to prepare for this career?

I am attaining my master's degrees in publishing and creative writing, but there are no definitive qualifications for this job. Most of my experience comes from my own writing training and the mentorship and mastery I've attained and shared in the process. That said, I'm a regular reviews writer for *Philadelphia Stories* magazine, the Fiction Editor for the *Rathalla Review* magazine, the graduate assistant for Rosemont College's publishing and creative writing programs where I develop much of the non-credit programming curriculum and events, and will be receiving the mentioned double master's degrees.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Seeing the light of confidence, joy, and inspiration fill up a writer as we talk about their dreams and stories. Nothing is more powerful than getting to be a part of the growth of another person's goals and ambitions, seeing them reach their potential and prove to themselves that they can write, they can publish, they can make their dreams a reality. They have that power.

KRIS'S FUN FACTS

Fun fact 1: I'm almost exclusively a novelist now, but my writing career and education started in play-writing in high school, when three teachers in my freshmen year individually colluded to place me in the "advanced" student program alongside mentors from the Philly Young Playwrights program.

I wrote three one-act plays in four years; each placed second or third in their annual festival and I once won a professionally staged reading of my first play at the Walnut Street Theatre in Philly.



What do you find most challenging about your job?

Explaining to new writers the daunting nature of the writing process (on a professional level) and keeping them inspired and empowered along the way. Writing for publication (at any level) is a long, hard path filled with more denials than acceptances for most writers. It's not a judgment against them or their work; it's simply the nature of the industry and the state of consumerism.

What was one of your first jobs and how did that experience influence your career path?

My first paid job was as a summer camp counselor and then transitioned into an after school tutor. While it wasn't a path I considered for my future, it taught me a great deal about the value of meeting people where they are, accepting that as a fact, and then letting them tell you where they want to end up so you can provide what tools you have to get them there. It's not your job to enforce their path or tell them how to do things. Judgment and denial of their goals helps no one, but listening and offering what you have can be the differences between stagnation and growth.



Kris as a teenage writer

KRIS'S FUN FACTS

Fun fact 2: I took a serious interest in writing after I made two teachers cry at two different writing assignments in middle school.

What is one piece of advice you would give to a young person who is interested in your profession?

Define success on your own terms. You will get more rejections and criticisms than you feel you can handle, but those are never meant or should be taken as personal. Instead, take them at their face value, decide whether or not you agree with what they say, and then adjust your course accordingly. You decide when you're done, what's possible, what's too hard. As long as you don't give up, your success is inevitable.

