

Dominic Grimaldi

Dr. Haught

ENGL 4405

30 April 2022

Final Reflection

This Publishing and Editing Capstone has been one of the most valuable courses I've taken at the University of West Georgia. It has reduced my career anxiety by allowing me to explore and market myself for different career positions and explaining the career pathway for most editors. It has also pushed me out of my comfort zone, from developmental editing to the dreaded line editing. Out of the many skills I will take with me from this class, content and line editing stand out. Through my Scholarly Editorial Project and my Final Project, I learned a plethora of presentation and grammar skills that will be very useful in my chosen path as a Fiction Editor.

I was deeply intimidated when I first received the guidelines for the Scholarly Editorial Project. I had seldom read and marked up a document to the extent asked for by the project. I had a somewhat nebulous idea of what I wanted to do. I knew it was something creative and had something to do with editing. However, I did not know anything about the different types of editing or even the different career paths an editor could take depending on if they desire academic, scientific, or manuscript publishing. This project, particularly the sections where I made and suggested extensive revisions, clarified my duties as an editor. I have always been intimidated by line editing. It is tedious and meticulous work that is often time-consuming. As a result, it is a part of editing that I have always avoided with passion. I knew enough to get by, but

I primarily relied on programs such as Grammarly or Spellcheck to catch any significant grammatical errors.

As I worked on the Scholarly Editorial Project, that changed. You still would not catch me rooting for line editing at a football game, but I did gain a healthy respect for it. I began to understand why certain grammatical mistakes were actually mistakes. Providing justifications for my edits forced me to think deeply about why sentences and phrases should be worded the way they are. Completing this project gave me the confidence to apply for (and receive) a position as a Staff Editor for LURe, our in-house undergraduate research journal. Though line editing is still not my favorite, I now understand its importance and how to use it in future professional settings. As you often point out, editors wear many hats. I will need to be familiar with all stages of the editorial process to successfully network my way to an ideal job.

Another skill I learned to enjoy was content editing via my final project: the *Writer's Block* podcast. I always appreciate it when professors give us leeway to choose the premises for our own assignments. I believe it gives college students a taste of the real world. In publishing and editing careers, editors often encounter situations with no hard and fast instruction manual to follow. Our response to any given encounter will change depending on the assignment, the author, and the material covered. That being said, I deliberately tried to challenge myself by creating something I'd never done for any final assignment before: a podcast. As I reviewed my information, sources, and the loose script, I learned how important it is to be a discerning content editor. To keep the podcast under a certain time constraint, I had to be very specific about what kinds of material would be included in the program.

Filtering ideas on a more abstract and content-related level helped me create a podcast tailored to a specific audience with specific interests. Content editing is one aspect of editing that

I enjoy. This class helped me learn to filter through information and graciously explain my decision process to clients who have a personal interest in my revisions to their work. Providing insightful but encouraging feedback is essential for any field and extremely important for a content editor. As a fiction editor, I hope to take my advanced understanding of both line and content editing to the next level. Before taking this class, I thought developmental editing was the only kind of editing I could do. I am ready to take on the challenge of piloting a book from start to finish if need be.