**Self-Editing & Revision**

**Kaitlyn Johnson**

Quick Overview

1. Line Editing
2. Copyediting
3. Developmental Editing

Your First Pages

1. In Medias Res (AKA - "in the middle of things")
   1. Begin in the midst of action
   2. Often, a moment that changes the main character's life somehow
   3. Can be subtle or active – sitting down to college exams vs. soldier chase through the marketplace
2. Voice
   1. Varied Sentence Structure
   2. Strong Verbs
   3. The “Onesie Effect” – feel like we are inside the character, feeling, hearing seeing, experiencing what they do
3. Introduce the Character/Conflict/Setting in your first page
4. Worldbuilding
   1. Natural sprinkling of details
   2. Don’t overwhelm with definitions or every single, unnecessary detail

Common Pitfalls

1. Show Vs. Tell
2. Passive Voice
   1. Snow was falling (avoid) vs. Snow fell (use)
   2. He was walking (avoid) vs. He walked (use)
3. Dialogue
   1. WHY do we need it?
   2. WHAT info does it supply?
   3. WHERE does it lead the scene?
4. All the Extras
   1. Limit Your Adverbs
   2. Avoid Whimper Words – very, softly, that, kind of, etc.
   3. Do Not Use Double Spaces At The End Of Sentences!

Helpers

1. Outline After the Novel Is Finished
   1. Character Arcs?
   2. Initial Incident (opening pages) vs. Inciting Incident (middle/climax)
   3. Plot Obstacles
   4. Is There A Resolution?
   5. Story/Plot Arc
2. Resources
   1. Critique Partners
      1. #CPmatch
      2. Absolute Write
      3. Agent Query Connect - “want ads” section
   2. Beta/Sensitivity Readers
      1. Write in the Margins
      2. #PitchWars