



Editing

A Video Interview Study Guide

Recommended Viewing

Barb Taylor: Novelist and Freelance Editor

https://youtu.be/19D_A5eUEnw

Barb Taylor is a freelance editor, novelist, and retired teacher. Taylor discusses working with small press Kaylie Jones Books, grassroots and social media marketing, how to find an agent, and her work as a freelance editor. Taylor also reads from her first novel *Sing in the Morning, Cry at Night*. (31:09)

Hillary Leftwich — Alchemy Author Services

<https://youtu.be/u0SB5Xdx6yg>

Hillary Leftwich is founder of Alchemy Author Services. Leftwich discusses the services Alchemy Author Services offers including developmental editing, beta reading, and agent matching, her experience working with literary magazines, marketing through social media, and internships with her company. (15:43)

Karley Stasko and Janine Dubik: Etruscan Press Intern Editors

<https://youtu.be/1ReTHKpz8fg>

Karley Stasko and Janine Dubik are freelance editors. Stasko and Dubik discuss their editing internship with Etruscan Press working with an ESL text, read from the original and edited text, and how to negotiate being both a writer and an editor. (31:57)

Kristin Weller and April Bogle: Kaylie Jones Books Editors

<https://youtu.be/jGwH0QA2Rj0>

Kristin Weller and April Bogle are former interns with Kaylie Jones Books. Weller and Bogle discuss interning at Kaylie Jones Books, reestablishing the imprints website, working alongside the imprint's parent, Akashic Books, and preparing a book launch. (27:09)

Pamela Turchin: Etruscan Press Production Editor

<https://youtu.be/E-3KFADVrEs>

Pamela Turchin is the production editor for Etruscan Press. Turchin discusses the eighteen month publication process for many Etruscan Press titles through an explanation of the Marketing Plan, the key to the publication and marketing of a new Etruscan Press book. (35:53)

Bob Mooney: Etruscan Press Executive Editor

<https://youtu.be/hsr7uUiPE2Y>

Bob Mooney is a professor of English at Washington College and Executive Editor at Etruscan Press. Mooney discusses the origin of Etruscan Press, his editing practices, writing as an editor, and provides practical advice to new writers on practicing and honing their craft. (31:29)

Scot Danforth: University of Tennessee Press Chief Editor

<https://youtu.be/DLlAuVL6Gwk>

Scot Danforth is chief editor of the University of Tennessee Press. Danforth discusses the inception of the University of Tennessee Press, their mission and day to day work, how they receive and accept manuscripts, and how the manuscripts are reviewed and edited. (21:27)

Questions/Prompts

1. As shown through these interviews, “editor” is a very broad term. What was your definition of the role before watching the interviews? How has it changed?
2. What types of editors are presented in the interviews? How are their roles similar? How do they differ?
3. What aspect of the role of editor surprised you most? How does it fit in with your view of the occupation?

Writing Prompt: *Write 500 words on an editor’s responsibilities as revealed through the interviews. How do the interviews confirm your expectations? How does reality differ from your expectations?*

4. Write a one sentence definition of “Managing Editor.” What are a managing editor’s primary responsibilities? How does the work of a managing editor differ from that of other editors?
5. How does the role of “Editor-in-Chief” differ from that of “Managing Editor”? How are they similar? Do you think it would be possible for one person to fill both roles?
6. Here the titles of “Managing Editor” and “Editor-in-Chief” are presented as roles within the framework of a small press and a university press, respectively. With what you know about other organizations, how do you see these roles existing within a commercial press? a literary journal? a magazine?

Writing Prompt: *Write a job posting for a Managing Editor or a Editor-in-Chief. Be sure to specify requirements including education and experience.*

7. Pamela Turchin, Etruscan Press’s Production Editor, shares an overview of the production cycle of a new title. What is the first step completed after the acceptance of a manuscript? How is this step crucial to the process? How is the production editor involved? In two to three sentences outline the responsibilities of the production editor.
8. Ms. Turchin reveals a bit about the marketing and distribution process. Is it similar to what you expected? If so, how? Does it differ from what you expected? If so, how? At what point in the publication process does marketing begin? What are the different channels of marketing available to a small press? How do you think it differs from a larger press?

Writing Prompt: *Write 500 words comparing and contrasting the three titles discussed so far: the editor-in-chief, the managing editor, and the production editor. What responsibilities do they share? How do their positions differ? Which position do you think you are suited for? What strengths would you bring to it?*

9. The interview with Karley Stasko and Janine Dubik discusses editing an ESL text. What challenges existed for this task? How were the editors able to overcome them?
10. In your opinion, should knowledge of the author’s language be a requirement to tend to an ESL text? If not, what resources do you see being invaluable?
11. The interview with Bob Mooney discusses editing a work of literary fiction. What is the definition of a literary novel? What does this editing task have in common with editing other types of fiction? What differs?

Writing Prompt: *You are tasked with editing either an ESL text or a literary novel. Write a plan on how to begin.*

12. Write a one sentence definition of a freelance editor. How does this differ from your definition before viewing the interviews?
13. The freelance editors discuss the services they offer to authors. How are the services offered similar? How do they differ?
14. What resources would you use as a freelance editor to attract clients? What do you feel is the most important qualification of a freelance editor?

Writing Prompt: *You are going to offer your services as a freelance editor. Think about what services you will provide. Write an ad for your service including your education, experience, and noteworthy projects.*