



Robbi Sommers Bryant

Developmental Editor

Content Editor

Copy Editor

10-PAGE FREE SAMPLE EDIT ON MANUSCRIPTS

rbryant224@att.net

707- 484 -5575

ELEMENTS OF A GOOD FIRST PAGE

- 1) Hook/opening line
- 2) Character
- 3) Action
- 4) Conflict/Tension
- 5) Mood: tone, setting, theme, and voice

HOOK

A beginning sentence that grabs reader's attention

Interesting, mysterious, thought-provoking

Makes reader want to read more

Beginning and end of each story, chapter, paragraph

OPENING LINES

Distinctive voice

A point of view

Simple plot

Hint of characterization

Assertive

Promise, question, or unproven idea

CHARACTER

Show character in action

Start with character's quirk

Reveal your character's thoughts

Show the character interacting with others

Unusual physical details

ACTION

Begin at a pivotal moment

Begin where the trouble starts

Should be in a context important to story
or draws you to the main character

Open right when action starts—

include feelings, inner thoughts, fears, etc.

CONFLICT/TENSION

Inciting incident starts the story

Creates plot

Man vs man, man vs nature

Man vs himself, man vs society

Open with character conflict or a character who's not getting what he wants—

Connects your reader with the story

MOOD

Evokes certain feelings through words and description

Creates an atmosphere that surrounds the reader

Is developed through tone, setting, voice, and theme

Check out: <http://literarydevices.net/mood>

TONE

Tone indicates the writer's mood, voice, and attitude

Achieve tone through syntax, POV, diction, imagery, and character

Word choice affects mood

Examples: cynical, sarcastic, positive, sad

SETTING

Establish when and where

Have a solid sense of setting right away

Make scene vivid

Create what you want reader to see

VOICE

Calm, confident and assertive

No bland language

No cumbersome passages

Must be totally present

Don't be boring

THEME

Every story is an argument—

Theme is solidification of argument

Theme is the underlying message

Allows reader to see deeper meaning

Identifies your purpose in writing the story

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Save the Cat, Blake Snyder

Showing and Telling, Laurie Alberts

The Word Finder, J.I. Rodale

Any Thesaurus by Ackerman and Pugglisi

The Chicago Guide to Grammar, Usage, and Punctuation