

Helen Fazal

EDITING AND PROOFREADING



How to Write the Perfect Synopsis

Your synopsis is the supporting document to your novel, outlining its entire plot. Whether an agent decides to take on your novel will rest largely on the quality and content of your synopsis. Following these steps will ensure that yours grips its reader.

1. Check the agent's website, carefully read their submission guidelines and follow them exactly.
2. A synopsis, usually, should be no more than one side of A4.
3. You may consider beginning with a quotation from your novel, if appropriate. This quotation can act as a hook.
4. The synopsis should be an overview of your entire plot, including the ending. Most agents will read your submission first and then use your synopsis, if they are pulled in by your writing, to see how your novel plays out.
5. The synopsis should be easy to navigate and you should avoid too many character names, place names and subplots. Focus on the spine of the novel or your protagonist's journey. Omit anything extraneous.
6. Write your synopsis in a similar tone to that of your novel. For example, if you are writing a gothic mystery, your synopsis should have a gothic tone.
7. Your synopsis is a further opportunity to show off your writing style, so make sure it is written to a standard which reflects your capabilities.
8. If possible, read your synopsis aloud to someone to check for clarity.