



## Scoops4Scribes from Barbra Rodriguez

Writing tips, publishing industry insights, and more for developing authors

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## Ways to Get Helpful Early Feedback



Whether you've thought about having others provide input on your work or not, it's an important step to consider. For one thing, there are tens of thousands of new books coming out each year, and the quality of your writings can help in standing out from the crowd. It can also be reassuring to hear that your main protagonist is compelling, that side plot about your Uncle Joe's time in the military is dragging down a memoir's pace, and more.

By coming up with a specific list of questions for alpha or beta readers, and considering other aspects of the who, when, and how of asking for feedback, writers can gain a clearer sense of how to move their work forward.

## Four Strategies for Successful Book Feedback

### Writing Tips & Treats

Writing insights are just a click away, as are behind-the-scene editing tips, ways to dig deeper into life experiences, and more. In each issue of Scoops4Scribes, you'll benefit from the bounty bookmarked for you.



### Punctuation Perspective

Using an occasional punctuation option beyond commas and periods can help spice up sentences, better convey how sentence elements connect, and benefit tone and the flow of content. But overuse of such punctuation, such as strings of question marks and exclamation points to add energy, suggests a writer who hasn't fully mastered their craft.



### Professional Kudos

This spring, I earned certification as a book coach of memoir and fiction from [Author Accelerator](#). After helping three other practicum clients, and submitting videos from working with them and 14 other documents, I'm now certified as a nonfiction book coach.

The three writers, like current clients, are interested in intentional living: in exploring human nature (memoir; self-help), or covering

Learn from a copy editor about sentence clarity and what some see as the current punctuation darling: overuse of em dashes.

nature itself and how the world works (how to; environmental justice topics; nature essays; historical fiction).

### The Financial Leap

### Book Drafting Myths

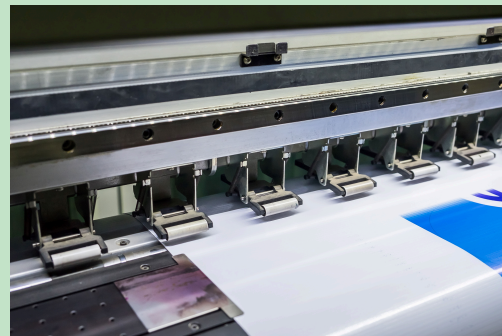


Learn six helpful financial steps for making the switch to being a professional author, including having diverse income sources.

Even some published writers trip up on these five myths, such as fearing that there's nothing new to your story.

### Finishing First Drafts

### Book Publishing Tips



Author and marketing guru Jeff Goins covers the value of being present during writing steps in this breezy podcast episode (you might prefer to skip the first 3 min., 14 seconds).

In "Advance Copy," National Assoc. of Science Writers' authors recap their publishing experience for works on topics like solitude, and how Boston's science developed (a historical novel).



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