

# The Wordsman editorial services

Allan Edmands

<http://www.thewordsman.com>  
(845) 217-7441

[allan@thewordsman.com](mailto:allan@thewordsman.com)  
880 Aileen Street, Oakland, CA 94608

Your words, sharpened to the point.

Your words sharpened, to the point.

(Shifting comma placement alters meaning; in this case, both meanings apply.)

Specialty: Working with English text written by authors whose first language is not English

## Mission:

Polishing manuscripts for 45 years, addressing not only violations of mechanical style but also factual inaccuracies, self-contradictions, problems of usage and parallelism, discontinuities, ambiguities, awkward phrasing, triteness, wordiness, poor transitions, organization and retrievability problems, lack of directness, lack of concreteness, and lack of emphasis. Helping authors make their prose professional, coherent, and compelling.

## 1983–present Editorial services provider

The Wordsman, Oakland, CA

Editing full-length books, scholarly and technical journal dissertations, novels, memoirs, and screenplays for publishers and authors. Some recent examples:

- *A Dictionary of Literary Works* by Mike Goldman, a 280-page alphabetized reference guide to some of the greatest books and authors of the past millennia. “I want to express my appreciation to Allan Edmands, an eagle-eyed and perceptive reader and editor. His editing... truly enhances my work and takes it to a much higher level.... I now understand the hefty contribution that an editor makes to a work, probably even that of some of the greatest writers.”
- *Better to Best: How to Speak for Extraordinary Results... Every Time* by David J. Dempsey, JD, a 340-page guide for drafting and delivering dynamic presentations. “The editing of Edmands made the language sing. His pleasant cajoling, diplomatic manner, remarkable eye for details, and artful buffing unquestionably improved the final product. I recommend him without reservation.”
- *Great Space of Desire: Writing for Personal Evolution* by Dara Lurie, a 250-page guide on memoir writing, including the author’s own memoir. “Edmands’s work [ensures] that nothing distracts readers from the fullest experience of a book.”
- *Blood on the Risers* by Michael O’Shea, a 500-page novel of conflict and survival by a Green Beret officer during the Vietnam War. I addressed character and time inconsistencies and helped the author enliven his dialogue. “Feel free to promote your magic using my work as an example of your masterful talent.”
- Numerous oft-cited academic journal articles and dissertations in sociology, law, ethnography, linguistics, pedagogy, and economics. (See online résumé for titles.)

## 1980–2002 Lead editor and teacher

IBM Corp., New York and Japan

Made sure that the text and graphics for conceptual, procedural, and reference information—whether in printed manuals, error messages, help panels, webpages, animations, or video—typically drafted in an opaque, dry, and intimidating form, became unambiguous, concise, readable, and even interesting. Taught technical writing and editing in courses offered worldwide. During a 5-year assignment in Japan, ensured the quality of the English produced by native Japanese. Supervised a team of editors. Developed style and editorial guidelines.

## 1973–1983 Freelance editor, copyeditor, and proofreader

New York trade book publishers

On contract with Random House, Alfred A. Knopf, Dell, Prentice Hall, Praeger, and several other publishers, edited novels (including titles by Robert Ludlum and Frank Yerby), young-adult science books (including a series by Isaac Asimov), cookbooks, craft books, psychology and archeology texts, travel guides—you name it.

## Bachelor of Arts in History

University of Washington, Seattle, WA, 1964