



Take a Pass:

How to Write Fast by Sean M Platt and Neeve Silver

Each time you pass through your manuscript, hold a specific intention for the pass. This keeps you in one mental state, focused on a single outcome, which does wonders for silencing the inner editor. You can set your passes however you want, but what follows is how we laid them out:

- **Outline Passes**

The outline is not just one pass. You'll have a brain dump, usually followed by a pass where you start to put your elements in order. Then you'll pass back through adding more detail to your beats. Keep adding to the outline until you feel you know your story and it's just dying for life.

- **Vomit Pass (Say It)**

The vomit pass is what we're focused on when we think about writing fast. It's spewing the words in your head onto a page so you can shape your story into the amazing piece of fiction you know it can be.

- **Rewrite Pass (Say What You Mean)**

The second pass through your manuscript is where you will start to see the story take shape. Here you're looking at what actually came out and starting to move the pieces around, adding the bits you needed to research, and making sure the story coalesces as a whole.

- **Edit Pass (Say it Well)**

Now you can look at those crappy sentence structures. Kill your darlings. Kick those adjectives out on their asses. You have a story that makes sense, so now's the time to make it shine.

This process is about looking for stumbling blocks. Look for sentences and word choices that stop your reader from having the best possible experience.

- **Polish Pass**

The purpose of this pass is to get your best effort to the editor. Catch the typos, make a final decision about your Oxford commas, and italicize your inner dialogue.

Giving an editor your best work helps them to move your manuscript from good to great. If they spend all their energy on your typos instead of looking for opportunities to improve word choice or metaphor, you will ultimately get a diminished product and grow less as a storyteller.

Click [here](#) for the full book *How to Write Fast*