

# Joseph Fruscione

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## About

Not long after I switched careers from professor to editor, I started work on a business motivation memoir by someone who did the Race Across America. What was supposed to be a once-over before publication became—thanks to the issues I found—a thorough and successful edit. What the writer didn't realize he needed until I began my work was a line-by-line edit for grammar, wordiness, misspellings, inconsistencies, and other issues. In short, the writer needed my ear for writing and my eye for detail. When he was inconsistent about spelling a colleague's first name, I caught it. When he referred to the racing team from Czechoslovakia when Czech Republic was correct, I caught it. And, when the apostrophes in one chapter were in a different font than the body text, I caught it. The writer decided to pay me double the price we'd agreed to because he was so grateful for my edits. To him, I had performed a kind of wizardry on his manuscript. To me, I just did what I always do: edit the writing while catching errors of grammar, fact, and even typeface.

## Experience

### **Editor and Writing Consultant**

**2010–Present**

I'm a copy editor and writing consultant with over 15 years of experience in academia. I work with clients at any stage of the writing process: from initial drafts and revisions to proofreading and final polishing. I know good writing, and I know how to help writers adapt their content to their situations, media, and target audiences. I help improve writers' mechanics, clarity, wordiness, usage, structure, content, and overall relationship between purpose, medium, and audience. Because I was a professor for 15 years, I offer a hybrid editing style. I both edit the writing and—when necessary—give some developmental feedback about habits, tics, or misuses from my writers. I've worked on novels, nonfiction manuscripts, contractor proposals, several dissertations, Master's theses, and scholarly articles. My background as a professor reading closely, giving feedback, and managing multiple deadlines routinely informs my editing work.

I've done a lot of editing work as an educated nonspecialist for various subjects: religious history, business motivation, Middle English poetry, salsa in 1970s' New York, and representations of Islam. As an objective reader, I help clients ensure that their message, content, and structure are clear. Because I don't lose focus or get wrapped up in content I know, I carefully edit (or proofread) the work, as well as act as a good stand-in for a lay audience ensuring that the tone, structure, and overall flow work well.

## **Consultant, The Professor Is In**

**2014–2017**

Around the time I changed careers, I did some freelance work for The Professor Is In, which prepares clients for jobs inside or outside academia. Along with the founder and several consultants, I worked with clients who were considering a career change similar to mine. My work for The Professor Is In was a mix of developmental work, copy editing, and helping clients build their networks outside academia. I edited resumes, cover letters, writing samples, and LinkedIn profiles. This was a fantastic segue gig to help me transfer my academic skills and experience into my developing role as an editor.

## **Professor, English and Writing**

**1999–2014**

I taught literature and first-year writing at George Washington University (1999–2014) and Georgetown University (2006–2012). I had a standard academic career: teaching writing and literature courses, giving conference presentations, publishing a book and articles, editing an essay collection, and managing different kinds of writers, from freshmen to experienced scholars. Along the way, I evaluated thousands of pages of writing from students and colleagues, as well as my own work on books, articles, lectures, and presentations. As I look back, I was on the path to becoming an editor without fully realizing it. For one, I had a tendency to over-edit students' papers and notice grammar and typos. I regularly helped colleagues with editing or fine-tuning a piece of writing. Also, I edited a collection of essays from 15 scholars; this entailed developmental work and copy editing on multiple versions of their pieces, as well as deadline management and regular communication.

## Education

### **Ph.D., English**

**2005**

Focus: American Literature

### **B.A., English**

**1996**

Focus: Business and Technical Writing

## Interests

I've also drawn on my background by running adult enrichment courses at Politics & Prose bookstore in Washington, DC. Discussing writers I know well (e.g., William Faulkner, Ralph Ellison, and Virginia Woolf) with retirees has been a great way to follow my love of public speaking and share my knowledge. When I'm not editing, writing, or discussing literature, I play floor hockey twice a week. I love the exercise, challenge, and break from my working life.