



PUBLISHING TIMELINE - P1

TASK

NOTES

Varies greatly	Plot and plan	As per your own style
1 - 2 years before pub day	Research comp titles	Books similar to yours, make sure yours has its own twist
Varies greatly	Draft	Number of drafts varies for each project
After at least two full rounds of revision	Get feedback and revise	Critique partners or content editor
After at least two full rounds of revision	Cover designed	Make sure this book is going all the way!
After additional revision rounds	Copyediting and proofing	Highly recommend using qualified editor
During final revision rounds	ISBN, LCCN* (optional)	Must have ISBN before getting LCCN
During final revision rounds	Track metadata	Keep a spreadsheet of all info about your book
Once finalized up to 3 months before pub day	Typesetting and formatting	On your own or hire help



PUBLISHING TIMELINE - P2

TASK

NOTES

1 - 2 months before
pub day

Upload files to
printer/distributor

May have formatting tweaks

1 - 2 months before
pub day

Order proofs for paperbacks

Check and update files as
needed

1.5 - 2 months before

Offset printing only: printing
starts

Takes 4 - 6 weeks

1 week before

Offset only: delivery to
distribution center

Overseas deliveries take
longer

P U B D A Y - H O O R A Y ! ! !

Immediately after

Mail book to Library of
Congress

If you got an LCCN

Up to 6 months after

Apply for copyright

Not required but helps with
litigation if needed