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**Barbra Rodriguez**

[www.vitalwordplay.com](https://www.vitalwordplay.com/contact)

Editor with 23 years of experience. Skilled at ensuring succinct, vibrant copy that is on message and helps a client’s voice shine. Editing and coaching of [books](https://www.vitalwordplay.com/editing-info) and other long-form content is informed by decades of writing professionally about lifestyle topics, life sciences, conservation, diversity, mindfulness, and other areas (see [Contently](https://barbrarodriguez.contently.com/?public_only=false&skill_ids%5b%5d=17) clips).

# Skills & Experience

Editing/Coaching

* Early book idea or manuscript coaching /developmental feedback
* Copy edit self-help, how to, expository nonfiction (to inform about philosophy, etc.), and creative nonfiction: topical (about nature, history, etc.) or personal, including memoir (plus historical fiction)
* Line editing for voice and style
* Book proposals (and critiquing)
* Online module updating, such as for scientists and physicians (txhealthsteps.com)
* Journal articles
* Citation formatting

Writing

* + Book ghostwriting
  + Book proposals (have pitched my own)
  + Jacket blurbs
  + Developing imprint analyses
  + Developing style guides for copy edits
  + Developing book maps for early manuscripts
* Features and conference reports

# Work History

**Freelancer** 2016-present

Editing clients include: MIT and Catapult presses for lay non-fiction; W.W. Norton; self-published authors (coach/edit); magazines at UT Austin, climate science division of Berkeley Lab; conservation organizations

**Science Writer/Editor** 2003-2016

UT Austin Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center (8 years), Cockrell School of Engineering (3 years), Natural Sciences College (2 years, Communications Director)

**Senior Communications Coordinator** 2000-2002

Alvin J. Siteman Cancer Center,

Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis; Part-time freelance writer

**Medical Science Writer** 1997-2000 Washington Univ. School of Medicine in St. Louis

# Education

Completing Book Coach Training, fiction, Author Accelerator; UC, San Diego Copyediting Certificate Program, 2019 (aced all classes); UC, Santa Cruz Science Communication Program, 1996 certificate; master’s in molecular cell biology and biochemistry, Washington University in St. Louis, 1994; bachelor’s in biology, science education, University of Missouri, Columbia, 1987

# Activities

Writer’s League of Texas (WLOT) Agents & Editors Conference (2018-2022); Diversity Travel Fellowship, World Conference of Science Journalists, and Journalist Travel Grant, Ecological Soc. of America Conference, 2017; non-fiction book competition judge, National Association of Science Writers, 2016, and WLOT, 2014, 2015; Austin Creative Non-Fiction meetup group director, 2011-2013, Best of TX Feature Writing Merit Award, Texas PRA, 2010