Beyond Self-Editing

Story Edit. This deals with the general overview. Character and plot problems are analyzed as well as style, organization and flow. Recommendations are listed, but it is up to you to make the suggested revisions or not. This edit is good for first time authors and before a copy edit.

Copy Edit. This is the line by line edit. Here the editor, like your worst, or best, grammar teacher, gets out the red pen. Spelling, grammar, punctuation, are corrected. It is still your responsibility to make the changes, and it is advisable to double check place names and specific information that is your area of expertise. This is the most expensive edit. Save yourself money in the future by learning from your mistakes. Make an effort to learn basic grammar and punctuation.

The Proofread. The final edit before publication. This checks all areas. Last chance!

One other service that is helpful is a **critique by an online group** who knows your genre. Listen to what they have to say because they are comparing your book to others in the market. If they compare your book to a certain published one, use this in your market analysis for your proposal. Maybe you know professionals in the field represented in your book or who lived in the area where your story takes place. Ask if they will read your story. They will notice what an editor may not. Pursue this service before the copy edit.