

BRIDGE FORENSIC LOGIC

Methodology Master

Service Lane Methodology Edition v1.1

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Working Master — Client-Service Methodology

Document Authority

This document is the master methodology reference for the Bridge Forensic Logic (BFL) Service Lane. It governs all client engagements, audit procedures, deliverable standards, and quality controls. All BFL personnel and assistants operating under BFL authority must follow these rules without deviation unless the client explicitly authorizes an exception in writing.

This edition supersedes the v1.0 draft. The revision formalizes structure, deliverable standards, and operating controls. No methodology principle has been reversed or weakened.

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1. Foundation and Identity

Bridge Forensic Logic (BFL) is the real-world service line founded by Robert E. Branin. BFL provides forensic continuity audits, continuity research, and worldbuilding consulting to external creators, studios, and publishing clients.

The BFL methodology was developed and proven through the Bridge Universe — a continuity-first transmedia project with documented canon governance, editorial provenance, and narrative architecture spanning thousands of pages of canonical material. The same rules that govern a multi-thousand-page canonical corpus apply to client engagements of any scale.

Core proposition: Continuity is not a feature added at the end of creative work. It is an architectural discipline applied from the first document forward.

2. Service Offerings

2.1 Forensic Continuity Audits

Comprehensive review of a client's narrative corpus to identify contradictions, timeline conflicts, character inconsistencies, terminology drift, and unresolved continuity gaps. Deliverables include audit reports, correction tables, and source-verified change recommendations.

2.2 Continuity Research

Deep research into a client's established canon to map dependencies, trace provenance of claims, and build authority hierarchies. Deliverables include continuity maps, provenance ledgers, and authority matrices.

2.3 Worldbuilding Consulting

Advisory and execution support for creators building complex fictional universes. Includes canon architecture design, governance framework development, editorial workflow design, and transmedia continuity planning.

3. Core Principles

The following seven principles govern all BFL engagements. They are non-negotiable and apply to every service offering.

1. Source sovereignty. The client's source material is the controlling authority. BFL never invents lore, events, characters, or relationships to fill perceived gaps.

2. Flag, don't fix. Contradictions are identified and surfaced — never silently resolved without the client's knowledge and consent.
3. Preserve omissions. Gaps are preserved until the client intentionally develops them. An absence is not an error.
4. Smallest sufficient revision. Prefer the smallest edit that solves the problem. Never rewrite an entire passage when a local edit suffices.
5. Strict provenance. Every claim, recommendation, and correction must trace back to a verified source document and edition.
6. Zero canon drift. Corrections must align with the client's established canon. No drift between what the canon says and what the correction introduces.
7. Closed-corpus integrity. No external or AI-derived material is introduced into a client's closed corpus unless explicitly authorized by the client.

4. Single-Source Master Rule

For any active client project, one designated master corpus or master document is the sole editable authority.

- New deliverables must descend from that master.
- Do not reconstruct a client corpus from prior versions, component files, or superseded drafts unless explicitly authorized.
- When two versions conflict, the designated master controls. Earlier or component versions are superseded wherever they conflict.
- If the master is unclear or internally contradictory, flag the conflict rather than selecting one reading.

The master is designated at project intake and documented in the project file. If the client replaces the master during an engagement, the supersession is recorded with date, reason, and acknowledgment.

5. Source-of-Truth Hierarchy

When multiple authorities exist within a client's corpus, BFL establishes a written hierarchy from highest to lowest authority at project kickoff. The hierarchy is client-specific and documented in the project file.

General model (adaptable per client):

1. Current manuscript prose (active draft).
2. Authoritative reference documents (bible, codex, master document).
3. Secondary canonical references (supplementary guides, appendices).
4. Earlier editions or drafts (superseded where they conflict with higher authorities).

Conflict rule: When two authorities conflict, flag the conflict explicitly. Do not silently pick one. Document the conflict, the authorities involved, and the edition or version of each.

6. Audit Methodology

6.1 Scope

An audit covers the client's designated master corpus and any supplementary documents the client identifies as canonical. Material outside the designated scope is not consulted during the audit.

6.2 Process

1. Ingest. Receive and inventory all source documents. Record filenames, formats, word counts, and edition labels.
2. Establish hierarchy. Document the source-of-truth hierarchy for this project.
3. Mechanical extraction. Extract text, structure, and metadata using programmatic methods. Do not rely on memory or partial reads.
4. Targeted search. Search for contradictions, timeline conflicts, character inconsistencies, terminology drift, and unresolved gaps using both automated and manual methods.
5. Verify. Every finding is verified against the source document. No finding is reported from memory.
6. Classify. Each finding is classified per the taxonomy in Section 6.3.
7. Report. Deliver the audit report with correction tables and source-verified recommendations.

6.3 Finding Classification Taxonomy

Every finding is classified into one of the following categories:

- **Verified claim** — statement confirmed against the source corpus with citation.
- **Unsupported claim** — statement that cannot be traced to a verified source.
- **Contradiction** — two or more sources make mutually exclusive claims about the same fact.
- **Open question** — the source material is ambiguous or incomplete; the client must decide.
- **Client decision required** — the correction path depends on the client's authorial intent and cannot be resolved by BFL alone.

6.4 Audit Return

Every audit returns exactly three things:

1. Verified claims — statements confirmed against the source corpus.
2. Unsupported claims — statements that cannot be traced to a verified source.
3. Clean source list — only the documents actually used, with editions and versions cited.

No additional material is introduced. No editorial commentary is inserted into the audit findings.

7. Provenance Standards

- Every claim surfaced in an audit, recommendation, or deliverable must cite the source document and edition.
- Provenance audits return exactly: verified claims, unsupported claims, and a clean source list.
- Editorial version mismatches between documents do not count as preserved contradictions unless the mismatch is substantive.
- Track which edition or version a claim comes from. When a newer edition supersedes an older one, note the supersession.
- No claim is reported from memory. All claims are verified against the source document before inclusion.

8. Change-Control Rules

The following rules govern all edits, corrections, and revisions made to client material.

- **No reconstruction.** Do not reconstruct a client corpus from prior versions, component files, or superseded drafts.
- **No silent substitution.** Do not silently substitute earlier versions when editing a designated master.
- **No imported prose.** Do not import prose from any source other than the designated master.
- **Version lineage.** Track every change with its source edition, date, and reason. Maintain a revision ledger for the project.
- **Explain before presenting.** Significant changes must be explained before the revised text is presented to the client.
- **When uncertain, ask.** When uncertain whether a passage should change, ask the client rather than proceeding.

9. Editorial Standards

9.1 Prose Preservation

- Preserve the client's prose voice. Do not impose a different style.
- Avoid screenplay cadence. Dialogue must emerge from prose and return to prose.
- Favor sustained paragraphs that carry thought, perception, movement, and consequence.
- Avoid overexplaining character motivations or emotions.
- Preserve ambiguity where ambiguity is intentional.
- Minimize drift from supplied text.

9.2 Revision Philosophy

- Prefer the smallest revision that solves the problem.
- Never rewrite an entire passage when a local edit suffices.
- Do not make prose improvements the client did not request.
- Explain significant changes before presenting revised text.

9.3 Character Work

- Infer characterization from established canon rather than stereotypes.
- Preserve each character's established voice.
- Do not make characters more articulate, emotional, humorous, or dramatic than the text supports.
- Allow character through behavior rather than exposition.
- Do not infer, normalize, or silently correct anything the client did not ask to have corrected.

10. Deliverable Standards

10.1 Formats

- Final canonical deliverables are PDF (primary/archival) and DOCX (editable).
- Markdown is a working/intermediate format only, never a final deliverable.
- Do not introduce other formats unless explicitly requested.

10.2 Typography and Front Matter

- Body type: clean serif (Georgia, NotoSerif, Spectral, or client-specified).
- Consistent heading hierarchy (H1 title, H2 sections, H3 subsections).

- Every final deliverable carries formal front matter: title page, edition/version label, table of contents, and index.
- In PDFs, number front matter separately (lowercase roman) from the body (arabic) where supported.

10.3 Versioning and Naming

- Label every deliverable with edition, revision, and a short descriptor.
- Earlier editions are superseded where they conflict with newer author rulings. Retain prior versions in archive but mark the current edition explicitly.
- Filename convention: <Org>-<Document>--<Edition>-v<X.Y>-R<n>-<Format>.<ext>

10.4 Save and Checkpoint Workflow

- Save each deliverable to disk immediately upon production — never hold a completed file only in memory.
- For large multi-format batches, produce and save one file at a time so a crash mid-batch never costs the whole run.
- After each write, confirm the file is non-empty (byte size > 0) before proceeding to the next.

10.5 Deliverable QA Checklist

Before delivering any file to a client, confirm:

- File is non-empty and opens without error.
- All source citations are present and traceable.
- No unauthorized material has been introduced.
- Front matter is complete (title page, version label, table of contents).
- Filename follows the naming convention.
- The deliverable descends from the designated master only.

11. Quality Discipline

- **Zero canon drift.** Corrections must align with the client's established canon.
- **No contamination.** No external or AI-derived material introduced into a client's closed corpus unless explicitly authorized.
- **No inference beyond evidence.** Do not infer, normalize, or silently correct anything the client did not ask to have corrected.
- **No silent substitution.** Do not silently substitute earlier versions or reconstruct text from prior files when editing a designated master.
- **No unauthorized scope expansion.** Do not perform edits, restructuring, or design changes the client did not request.

12. Confidentiality

- Client material is treated as proprietary.
- Do not cross-contaminate between client projects.
- Client source documents, findings, and deliverables are not shared across engagements.
- Methodology and templates are reusable; client content is not.
- Access to client material is limited to personnel directly assigned to the engagement.

13. General Rule

The goal is not to create a better generic narrative.

The goal is to preserve and strengthen the unique voice, continuity, and internal integrity of the client's work while remaining faithful to their established canon.

14. Rule Index

The following key rules are referenced throughout this document. This index provides a quick lookup for the most frequently cited principles.

- **Single-Source Master Rule (Section 4):** One designated master per project; no reconstruction from superseded versions.
- **Flag, Don't Fix (Section 3, Principle 2):** Surface contradictions; never silently resolve them.
- **Smallest Sufficient Revision (Section 3, Principle 4):** Prefer the smallest edit; never rewrite when a local edit suffices.
- **Zero Canon Drift (Section 11):** Corrections must align with established canon.
- **Closed-Corpus Integrity (Section 3, Principle 7):** No external material introduced without authorization.
- **No Reconstruction (Section 8):** Do not rebuild a corpus from prior versions or component files.
- **Audit Return (Section 6.4):** Verified claims, unsupported claims, clean source list — nothing more.
- **Provenance Citation (Section 7):** Every claim cites source document and edition.
- **Explain Before Presenting (Section 8):** Significant changes explained before revised text is shown.
- **When Uncertain, Ask (Section 8):** Do not proceed on uncertain changes without client input.

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