

Starting Your Novel

Forming ideas	http://nownovel.com
Gathering inspiration	http://pinterest.com
ZenWriter	http://www.beenokle.com/zenwriter.html
National Novel Writing Month	http://nanowrimo.org
Camp NaNoWriMo	http://campnanowrimo.org/
JuNoWriMo	http://junowrimo.com/
A Round of Words in 80 days	http://aroundofwordsin80days.wordpress.com/

These are just a few of many resources for writing. You can utilize as few or as many of these as you wish, as well as find some on your own.

Writing Help & Resources

Writer Unboxed	http://writerunboxed.com/
The Creative Penn	http://www.thecreativepenn.com/
The Writer's Helpers	http://thewritershelpers.tumblr.com/
Yeah, Write!	http://yeahwriters.tumblr.com/
Little Writing Things	http://a-writers-littlethings.tumblr.com/
Keyboard Smash Writers!	http://keyboardsmashwriters.tumblr.com/
WriteWorld	http://writeworld.tumblr.com/
The Emotion Thesaurus	http://www.amazon.com/The-Emotion-Thesaurus-Character-Expression/dp/1475004958

Writing Help & Resources (cont)

No Plot? No Problem!	http://www.amazon.com/No-Plot-Problem-Low-Stress-High-Velocity/dp/0811845052
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There are many other books and blogs dedicated to writing. There are limitless resources for writing out there, free and available for purchase. This is just a place to start.

Sticking It Through

Choose a monthly goal, such as 50,000 words.

Choose an additional goal to get to that monthly goal, such as 1,667 words per day or 11,667 words per week.

Don't worry about the quality of your writing. Save that for edits - just get the words down.

Give yourself incentive to write. Even little things like snacks or breaks can motivate you.

Participate in a community. Share your writing experience with others.

Join in on some #wordsprints on twitter. Share your word counts.

Don't go back and edit. It's more important, for now, to finish up that draft.

Breathe. Commit to your novel, but don't let it control your life.

First drafts are, more often than not, not going to come out great. Don't worry about the quality of your first draft. You can't edit a blank page.

To Plot, or to Pants?

Planning vs. Pantsing	http://theredhead-blog.blogspot.com/2011/07/how-to-write-novel-planning-vs-pantsing.html
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It's not pantsing, it's organic storytelling

<http://thewriterblocked.wordpress.com/2011/11/13/its-not-pantsing-its-organic-storytelling/>

Pantsing versus Plotting?	http://madamewriterofwrongs.blogspot.com/2013/05/pantsing-versus-plotting.html
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The 10,000 word Novel Outline

<http://thepillsburydoughgirl.blogspot.com/p/10000-word-novel-outline.html>

Pantsing forward, planning backward.

<http://emmadarwin.typepad.com/thisitchofwriting/2012/10/pantsing-forward-planning-backward.html>

Planning a Novel in 10 Steps

<http://www.writersbureau.com/writing/planning-a-novel.htm>

Feel free to experiment with your planning or 'pantsing' methods for your novel. These are some ideas and tips - run wild with whatever method you want if it suits you.



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Plot Creation & Development

Plot Worksheet <http://www.jennymeyerhoff.com/PlottingWorksheet.pdf>

Exposition The beginning of the story, where we are introduced to the characters, setting, and plot.

Rising Action The scenes in which conflict and plot begins to build up. There can be several instances of this.

Climax The turning point of the story, be it good or bad. The conflict(s) are usually brought face to face to the character(s) at this point. The main character(s) almost always change or are effected here.

Falling Action The scenes in which the loose ends of the conflict and plot are wrapped up, leading up to the resolution. Much like rising action, there can be several instances of this.

Resolution The end of the story, be it pleasant or not. It can be conclusive, leading up to a sequel, or a cliff-hanger.

You can go into a first draft with a well-outlined and thought out plot, a single idea, or anywhere in between. You don't have to have a whole plot in mind when you begin your first draft.

Character Creation & Development

Character Sheet <http://yeahwriters.tumblr.com/post/24774343500>

Main Character The main character is the center of your story, and your protagonist. They do not have to be 'good'. There can be several main characters or a single one.

Supporting Character The supporting characters are the characters who exist in the story and are involved in it, but are not the main character. They are more important than minor characters.

Minor Character The minor characters are characters who exist in your story but are not entirely important or relevant.

Character Creation & Development (cont)

Antagonist The antagonist is the opposing character or group of characters. They do not have to be evil/a villain or anything of that vein - they simply have to be opposing to your protagonist.

Positive vs. <http://dunst-rph.tumblr.com/post/21557797637/i>

Negative Character Traits -find-that-when-writing-bios-its-really

While your main character(s) and antagonist(s) will be getting the most attention in your novel, it is important for all of your characters to be well-fleshed out and three-dimensional.



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