

Write A Novel in 30 Days

A Game Plan for Winning NaNoWriMo

An Intro to Me

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Quote

“We’re slammed at work and busy at home. Throw in an occasional outing with friends and significant others, and we’re ready for bed at 10 p.m. every night...There’s barely enough time in a day to cover all our mandatory obligations, so optional activities, like novel writing, journaling, painting or playing music are invariably left for another day. Which is how most of us become ‘One Day’ Novelists. As in, ‘One day I’d really like to write a novel.’ The problem is that day never seems to come,”--Chris Baty

An Intro to NaNoWriMo

National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) is an annual event that takes place every November.

The goal is to write a 50,000-word novel in 30 days.

Before you get freaked out ...

Keep In Mind

1. NaNo is an exercise in
EXPLORATION
2. You don't have to write a "novel"
3. If you want to write a "novel," you
must plan ahead

How Do You Define “Story?”

If someone asked you:
“What is a story?” ...

How would you respond?

The Definition of “Story”

CONFLICT!

No conflict, no story

The Definition of “Story”

Stories are about:
SOMETHING HAPPENING

Think of any book or movie that exists... they're all about something happening.

Quote

“There’s a book in you
that only you can write,”
--Chris Baty

Where To Find Ideas

All novel ideas start out as little “idea seeds.” It’s up to us to uncover what’s there and turn it into something bigger and better...

- The Corporate Game
- Celebrity Soulmate

Where To Find Ideas

Inspiration can come from ANYWHERE:

- Dreams
- Events
- People you meet/know
- Experiences--yours, others
- News stories
- ETC

An Exercise

Take 5-10 minutes to complete the “Ideas For A Novel” exercise on your handout

Let's Share...

What ideas do you have? What do you want to write a novel about? Where did your idea come from?

Story Structure: The Hero's Journey

http://youtu.be/yZxs_jGN7Pg

“Something Happens” AKA: the First Plot Point

- **Titanic:** the ship hits an iceberg
- **Rudy:** Rudy decides to move to South Bend and try to get into Notre Dame
- **What About Bob:** Bob shows up on Dr. Marvin’s vacation--and decides to stay
- **The Hunger Games:** Katniss agrees to pretend her and Peeta are in love/a couple
- **Twilight: Eclipse:** a stranger-vampire was in Bella’s house ... and they don’t know why

Planning Your Novel

NaNoWriMo Rules state that you can't start writing until November 1 AND that you must write something new ... BUT there are no rules about how much planning you're allowed to do.

That means you can plan every single detail of your story out before you start writing it, if you want to.

Planning Your Novel

Things to think about:

- What is this story about?
- Who is my Protagonist (hero)?
- Who is my Antagonist (opposing force)?
- How does the story begin?
- What happens in the middle?
- How does it end?

Exercise

1. Do a “brain-dump” of everything you know about the novel you want to write

OR

2. Brainstorm from list using: (Character) wants (Goal) because (Motivation), but (Conflict)

Your 30-Day Novel Plan

To keep up with NaNo and “win” you must finish the 50,000 words in 30 days (by November 30 at 11:59 p.m.) ... here’s how you can make that happen:

Write 1,667 words per day ... your total at the end of the 30 days will be 50,010 words.

NaNo Prep: Yourself and Your Schedule

- Tell people you are UNAVAILABLE from November 1-30
- Learn to say NO!
- Get your family and friends on board
- Commit yourself to this challenge and to your writing
- Find a distraction-free place to write
- Focus on your daily word count
- Don't edit--just write!
- Get support

Time Management

Time management is SUPER IMPORTANT for NaNo because it's a big challenge in such a short amount of time...

- Use a timer
- Block out NaNo time on your daily/weekly calendar (recommended: 1 hour 30 mins)
- Avoid distractions

NaNoWriMo Survival Kit

- A notebook
- Pen/pencil
- A computer or word processor
- Water
- Eye re-wetting drops
- Your “Muse”
- Planning notes
- Music
- Ear plugs
- Energy-sustaining snacks
- Chocolate (official)
- Coffee or tea
- Support contact info
- Reference books (dictionary, thesaurus)
- A sweatshirt/sweater
- A timer

NaNoWriMo Support

Don't go at it alone! Free support:

- Rochester NaNo group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RocNaNo/>
- Writers and Books NaNoWriMo events (3): <http://www.wab.org/date/2013/>
- Official NaNo Site: www.nanowrimo.org

Be Sure to Register

NaNoWriMo is a free event... but in order to “win” and claim the prizes, you must have an account on the NaNoWriMo site.

Register here: https://nanowrimo.org/sign_up

Final Tip

HAVE FUN!!!

Further Reading

For Planners:

- Story Engineering by Larry Brooks
- The Screenwriter's Fairy Tale by Todd Klick

For “Pantsers”:

- No Plot? No Problem! by Chris Baty

Want More?

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