

The #3 Thing That
Keeps You From
Writing (Or
Finishing) Your Novel

Part Three of Three

How many times has this happened to you ...

You have an amazing idea for a story, so you write it down on a Post It note.

Later on you're at the grocery store and you have another bit of inspiration for this same story. But since you're not at home you write the idea down on the back of a piece of paper you found in your purse.

And then later you're out having a drink with your friends when another idea pops in your head. You grab a napkin and write it down.

But now you're at home and ready to work on that story idea, and you can't seem to find all of the random pieces of paper that you wrote your notes on...

Or how about this ...

Maybe you've got the organization of your story ideas down—it's just that your actual stories are all over the place.

Instead of having drafts of compelling stories, you have drafts full of episodic scenes—none of which link together with any bigger purpose.

Your stories are lacking structure and architecture, all caused by ...

Disorganization

While this may not stop
you from attempting to
write a novel, it will stop
you from writing a novel
that you can publish.

Thankfully, Disorganization is a
simple fix.

First—you have to
organize your story ideas.

No more having notes all
over the place—get a
writer's notebook or use a
program like Evernote to
keep things together.

Organize it so that every story idea has its own notebook or folder. Then whenever you get more inspiration for that same story, you pull out the notebook and add it right there.

After your story ideas are all organized, it's time to make sure your actual stories are organized too.

All stories must have structure.

It matters not if you get to this structure by writing multiple drafts or by planning it out ahead of time—either way, you must come to this structure in the final version of your story.

If you want it to work.

This is what story structure looks like:

**Part One:
Set Up**

**Part Two:
The Reaction**

**Part Three:
The Attack**

**Part Four:
The Resolution**

First Plot Point

Midpoint

Second Plot Point

Pinch Point 1

Pinch Point 2

General Story Structure Timeline

All stories must also have architecture, which the scenes that link the major story milestones together.

Each scene in the story
should have a purpose, and
must move the story forward.

This is purpose-driven
storytelling.

When you organize your story in this way, you're gonna come a lot closer to having a draft you can actually do something with (ie: edit and publish).

Learn More

- Recommended Reading: Story Engineering by Larry Brooks
- Check out the story structure series on my blog at: JenniferBlanchard.net

Now that you know how to deal with
your FDD—Fears, Distractions and
Disorganization—you can be
unstoppable as a writer.

You've just gotta stick with it.

Idea to Draft

The Idea to Draft Story Intensive will help you overcome Disorganization and finally turn your story idea into a novel draft.

Learn more at:

<http://tinyurl.com/IdeatoDraft>

Register here:

JenniferBlanchard.net/Idea-to-Draft