

HOW TO WRITE A NOVEL IN 20 STEPS

(FOR THE WRITER WHO DOESN'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN)

- STEP 1: Find an idea.
- STEP 2: Brainstorm on your idea (includes thinking about ideas for steps 3, 5, 7, & 11).
- STEP 3: Decide on your setting, time period, and genre.
- STEP 4: Decide on your audience.
- STEP 5: Discover the goals of your hero and villain, and develop their characters. Also, begin to brainstorm your secondary characters.
- STEP 6: Choose your point of view and view point character(s).
- STEP 7: Create a rough draft of your plot outline.
- STEP 8: Do market research. (Has anyone written anything similar to your story? What did readers like or hate about it?)
- STEP 9: Tweak your plot outline as needed from your research results.
- STEP 10: Develop your story's settings or begin worldbuilding for fantasy.
- STEP 11: Research your setting and/or time period and any other necessary details.
- STEP 12: Tweak your plot outline as needed with any new ideas you may have gotten from your research and/or worldbuilding.
- STEP 13: Choose your theme. Tweak plot outline as necessary.
- STEP 14: Write your first draft.
- STEP 15: Edit your draft focusing on major issues.
- STEP 16: Fine-tune your story by editing 2-3+ more drafts.
- STEP 17: Hand off your story to beta readers.
- STEP 18: Revise your story according to beta reader's suggestions.
- STEP 19: Begin querying literary agents for publication, or self-publish.
- STEP 20: Pat yourself on the back, take a breather, and then repeat it all again!