



# HOW TO WRITE A NOVEL IN 20 STEPS

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- 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 the self-publishing process.
- STEP 20:** Pat yourself on the back, take a breather, and then repeat it all again!