

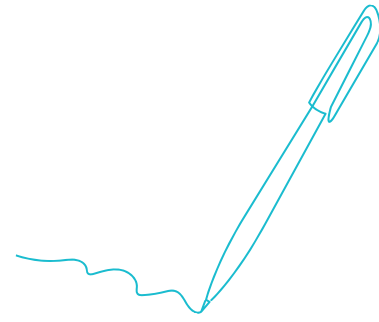
The background features abstract, colorful brushstrokes in shades of blue, pink, and purple, along with scattered pink and red splatters. The overall aesthetic is artistic and creative.

# 10-Step Checklist to Plan Your Novel

Three vertical highlighters are positioned at the bottom of the page. From left to right, they are yellow, teal, and orange. They are slightly out of focus compared to the text above them.

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# 10 STEPS TO PLANNING YOUR NOVEL



## #1 DEFINE YOUR GENRE & AUDIENCE

- Decide on the genre: mystery/suspense, romance/rom-com, thriller, fantasy, sci-fi, etc.
- Identify your target audience: what does your reader look like - age, focus, interests

## #2 - CHOOSE A PREMISE/CONCEPT

- Define your central idea or concept - what is the story you want to tell?
- What message/theme do you want to convey - for example: good vs. evil, coming of age, loyalty, friendship,, justice, family

Storytelling is about 2 things:  
it's about character & plot.  
~George Lucas

## #3 CREATE MEMORABLE CHARACTERS

- Give your characters depth - flaws, complex feelings/wants.
- Think about your character's background - these shape our characters and guide them
- Make sure your character isn't perfect

## #4 OUTLINE THE PLOT

- Make a basic plot outline
- What are the key points/events?
- Give your plot a beginning, middle, & end

## #5 WORLD BUILDING

- Where is your novel set
- If needed, create maps, cultures, etc. esp for fantasy/sci-fi

# STEPS #6-10



## #6 WRITING SCHEDULE

- How often will you write?
- Set realistic goals

## #9 WRITE A SYNOPSIS

- Summarize your novel
- Include core elements and themes

## #7 RESEARCH

- What do you need to research - the location, the character's job, etc.
- Conduct research

## #10 SET WRITING GOALS & START WRITING

- Break your writing into manageable goals
- Begin writing

## #8 DETAILED OUTLINE

- If you're are a pantsner, you probably won't have an outline. If not: expand your beginning outline include major plot points and character arcs

*Description begins in the  
writer's imagination, but  
should finish in the  
reader's.  
~ Stephen King*

# RESOURCES:

## WRITING RESOURCES:

Grammarly  
ProWritingAid  
Evernote  
Canva  
Vellum

## HELPFUL BOOKS:

*On Writing* – Stephen King  
*Plot & Structure* – James  
Scott Bell  
*The Emotion Thesaurus* (&  
the other books in the series)

**\*\* Also check out my [Resource Library](#)  
for more helpful hints\*\***

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