

RESEARCH CHECKLIST FOR WRITERS

Setting, Characterization, Plot,
Theme, Dialogue & Language,
Worldbuilding,
Research Methods,
Fact-Checking,
Ethical Considerations, Revision
& Feedback

RESEARCH CHECKLIST FOR WRITERS



SETTING

- Geographic location:** Research the region, climate, terrain, and landmarks.
- Historical period:** Study the social, political, and cultural context.
- Time period:** Understand the era's technology, customs, and language.

CHARACTERIZATION

- Professions/occupations:** Learn about the skills, responsibilities, and environments of your characters' professions.
- Backgrounds:** Develop a backstory for each character that informs their motivations, behaviors, and beliefs.
- Diversity:** Ensure diversity in your characters' backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives.

PLOT

- Conflict:** Understand the nature and dynamics of the central conflict in your story.
- Plot elements:** Research relevant plot points, twists, and developments.
- Subplots:** Have secondary storylines to complement & enrich the main plot.

THEME

- Themes and motifs:** Identify the central themes and motifs of your story.
- Symbolism:** Research symbols and metaphors that reinforce your themes.
- Cultural relevance:** Consider how your themes resonate with contemporary issues or timeless human experiences.

DIALOGUE & LANGUAGE

- Dialects and accents:** Study regional accents or specialized language relevant to your characters.
- Historical language:** Use appropriate language for the time period of your story.
- Jargon and slang:** Incorporate authentic terminology for specific professions or subcultures.

WORLDBUILDING

- Rules and laws:** Establish consistent rules for any fictional elements in your world.
- Culture and society:** Develop social structure, customs, and traditions.
- Magic or technology** (if applicable): Create believable systems and limitations for any fantastical or futuristic elements.

RESEARCH METHODS

- Primary sources:** Seek out firsthand accounts, interviews, and documents related to your subject matter.
- Secondary sources:** Consult books, articles, and academic papers for in-depth analysis and context.
- Experts:** Reach out to professionals, scholars, or enthusiasts who can provide specialized knowledge or insights.

FACT-CHECKING

- Verify** historical events, scientific principles, or cultural practices.
- Cross-reference** multiple sources to ensure accuracy and reliability.
- Keep detailed notes** of your research sources for reference and citation.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Appropriation:** Respect cultural, religious, and ethnic boundaries when depicting diverse characters or settings.
- Sensitivity:** Handle potentially sensitive topics with empathy and awareness.
- Representation:** Strive for authentic and nuanced portrayals of characters from marginalized or underrepresented backgrounds.

REVISION & FEEDBACK

- Incorporate feedback** from beta readers or critique partners to refine your research and storytelling.
- Continuously revise and update** your manuscript as you gather new information or insights.

You can print this checklist and tick off each box as you complete the corresponding task during your research process.