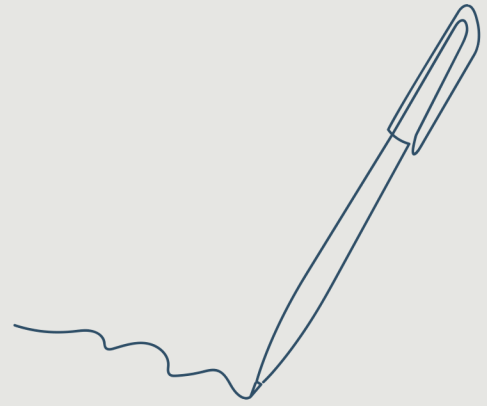


*10-Step Workbook
to Plan
Your Novel*

JD

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 .

#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.

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

~George Lucas

#4 OUTLINE THE PLOT

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

#6 WRITING SCHEDULE

- How often will you write?
- Set realistic goals.



#5 WORLD BUILDING

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

#7 RESEARCH

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

Description begins in the writer's imagination, but should finish in the reader's.

~ Stephen King

There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you.

~ *Maya Angelou*

#8 DETAILED OUTLINE

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

#9 WRITE A SYNOPSIS

- Summarize your novel
- Include core elements and themes

#10 SET WRITING GOALS & START WRITING!

- Break your writing into manageable goals.
- Begin writing!!



HELPFUL BOOKS

On Writing - Stephen King

Plot & Structure - James

Scott Bell

The Emotion Thesaurus (&
the other books in the series)

WRITING RESOURCES

Grammarly

ProWritingAid

Evernote

Canva

Vellum

"If my doctor told me I had only six minutes to live, I wouldn't brood. I'd type a little faster."

-Isaac Asimov



**Check out my Resource Library
for more helpful hints**

JenDodrillWrites.com