

DIY Story Coach

Guide Your Writing

In a 2018 survey, 81% of Americans said they wanted to write a book or novel. However, only 15% started writing, 6% got to the halfway point, and a slim 3% actually finished.

The major reasons why most people didn't finish writing their novels or books?

- They were unclear about their book's purpose.
- They didn't have a structured map for writing.
- They weren't sure who their audience was.
- They weren't held accountable for writing.
- They didn't have a writing schedule.

If those issues sound familiar to you, you're not alone. But I'm here to tell you that yes, you can write a novel. And you can do it in 90 days.

Use this guide to create a writing plan you can stick to. Then, get those fingers moving.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Writing a novel is hard work. There, I said it.

Though you may be using your leisure time to write, writing a novel is not a leisure activity. Unleashing your creativity and bringing out your inner story requires deep focus free from distractions. Making that time for yourself is a big hurdle for most would-be writers.

Fill out the included Story Notes pages to write down the major bones of your story. Taking the time to fill out some notes will help keep you on task as you write.

Then, communicate to your family or roommates that your writing time is sacred. Give them a heads up that you will need one hour of focus time every day for the next 90 days.

Then, fiercely protect that hour the way a mama bear protects her cubs. It sounds dramatic, but you may be surprised at how fleeting a single hour in a day actually is. And once that hour is gone, it won't come back. So, take note of that hour here. I've filled in the goal for you.

Start Time:

Stop Time:

Daily Goal: 1,000 words



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Story Notes

The Target Reader

who should read your work

The Benefits

insights readers will gain

Working Title

how your story is known



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Story Notes

The Conflict

problem, struggle, or issue

The Major Events

actions that inform plot

The Characters

major and minor actors



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Story Notes

The Themes

the central ideas to explore

The Message

the lesson for readers

The Structure

your storytelling approach

*Need a resource on structure? Visit FallonEdits.com/resources for the MICE pdf.



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Story Notes

Experience

perception from personality

Learnings

expertise from experience

Major Truth

lesson pulled from knowledge



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Story Notes: Chapter Sheet

Use this sheet as you construct working chapter outlines to keep yourself on theme and working toward a defined goal. Think of each chapter as a short story working collaboratively as part of a whole experience. Print as many times as needed.

The Chapter Blurbs

what the chapter is about

The Focus

the key points to discuss

Takeaways

what readers carry forward



