

## Planning Your Story

1. Know what kind of book you want to write!
  - a. You should write in a genre you actually like; you are far more likely to work on and finish your story if you enjoy it!
  - b. Do you like fantasy? Science fiction? Romance?
2. As you think about your story, dump all your ideas out on to a page from characters, to plot points, to where things will be taking place. Anything that comes to your mind!
  - a. This can be as detailed to open-ended as you want. This list will be made up of anything and everything that you know you might want in your story.
3. Time to work on the essentials!
  - a. Create your characters \*See Character Creation Guide\* – Now, your characters may evolve and change as you write, and that’s okay! But this will give you an idea of the type of people that are in your story. Types of characters to think about:
    - i. Main Character/Protagonist
    - ii. The “Bad Guy” / Antagonist
    - iii. Secondary characters, for example:
      1. The “Best Friend”
      2. The “henchman”
      3. The “mentor”
  - b. Plot Development \*See Plot Development Guide\* - The plot may change as you get in the groove and the story develops more, which is great! But it is always a good idea to have a general plan for the story.
    - i. Know the beginning
    - ii. Know the ending
    - iii. If you had any plot points in the initial idea dump stage, flush them out now!
4. Make a timeline!
  - a. Alright, you have a pretty good idea of where you want your story to go, and maybe even have some scenes in mind! Now is the time to make sure they go in chronological order.
  - b. Organize all your plot points in the order you would like them to go.
    - i. Consider if the scene is a flash back or a flash forward, make sure your reader knows this when you’re writing!
5. Review the plan!
  - a. This allows you to take out anything that may seem irrelevant now OR you can now see a gap in the story that you wish to fill!
6. Begin to write!
  - a. Now the fun part can finally begin! A good technique is to write for at least an hour a day. Non. Stop. Even if you’re writing gibberish, keep going! You can edit that part out. But the stuff in the middle will be pure gold! You do this to avoid that pesky writers block you can get when you think about your work too much.
7. Edit! Edit! Edit!
  - a. Once you’re done, you get to edit your work! This is when you’ll take out pieces you don’t like or don’t fit the story. Also have someone else read your work, they will catch stuff you might have missed!