

## NaNoWriMo 2019

### Planning your Story

- 1) Know what kind of book you want to write!
  - a. Choose the genre before starting to write, this will help you in choosing the direction you want your story to go!
  - b. Choose a genre you will be passionate about, you are going to be spending a lot of time writing this story, so you want to like what you are writing about
- 2) Write a list for your basic ideas for the story, for example
  - a. Names of characters
  - b. The setting and what are some major components of the setting you will feature in the story
  - c. Plot points you know you want to include in the story, such as the major conflict, dialogue you have in your head between two characters. Basically anything about the story that you don't want to forget to include while you're writing it
- 3) Work out your essentials – focus on the smaller details of the story
  - a. Character creation (age, goals, anything else you feel is important to the development of that character)
    - i. Main character/protagonist
    - ii. Antagonist or the “bad guy” (this is anyone who works against the main character)
    - iii. Mentors to the main character
    - iv. Power players (these are characters that will impact the storyline in some way)
    - v. Minor characters
  - b. Plot development
    - i. Know the ending
    - ii. Know the beginning
    - iii. Fill in the middle with the major points from step 2, but more flushed out
- 4) Make a timeline
  - a. All the major events you have created up until this point, now is the time to put them in chronological order
  - b. Create a scene list (this could also spur up more ideas for other scenes you want to add) these scenes should be in the order they happen in the book
  - c. Group scenes into chapters (if you are writing a novel)
- 5) Review plan
  - a. This allows you to take out anything that now seems irrelevant to the story you want to tell
  - b. It also allows you to add anything that you feel the story is missing
- 6) Begin to write!
  - a. A tip here if you are experience writers block is to just write no matter what, even if what you are writing is not producing the kind of results you want. Write whatever comes to mind and you can edit that out later. You may even find you end up writing something you hadn't intended and it makes its way into the book!
- 7) Editing phase
  - a. Very important! This allows you to make sure the story is polished and ready to go. A time to take out unnecessary words or change sentences that don't make sense on the second read through. It's also good, dependant on the size, to read out the dialogue portions of the story to see if they sound natural when spoken. This adds a little more realism to the story as the characters sound more authentic.