

# **THE WRITERS' HQ NOVEL WRITING CHECKLIST**

A step-by-step guide to plotting,  
planning and writing your novel



**[WWW.WRITERSHQ.CO.UK](http://WWW.WRITERSHQ.CO.UK)**

# PLANNING YOUR NOVEL



The aim of this stage is to figure out when and how you're going to do this - to make sure you move from dreaming to writing to finishing.

## 1. SET YOUR EXPECTATIONS

- Tell yourself you're going to write a novel and commit to it
- Give yourself a realistic deadline (hint: a month isn't going to cut it)
- Identify your strengths (eg: character, descriptive details, action)
- Take the pressure off yourself and get excited about your story
- Buckle in for the long haul!

## 2. AUDIT YOURSELF

- Index what you already have - ideas, notes, research etc
- Decide if your idea will keep your interest for long enough
- Identify areas/skills that need development
- Get your inner critic in check and double check that realistic deadline!

## 3. TIMETABLE YOURSELF

- Set yourself tangible goals (word targets, monthly progress etc)
- Work out *when* you have time to write
- Draw up a weekly writing schedule
- Find accountability buddies and share your plan with them
- Set yourself a start date and get going!

## RELATED THINGS AND STUFFS

[8 Ways To Fit Writing Into Your Life](#)

[5 Reasons To Stop Reading About Being Creative And Actually Get On With Being Creative](#)

[Maximise Your Writing Time](#)

[Why We Find Writing Scary \(And Why That's A Good Thing\)](#)


[5 Ways To Kick Imposter Syndrome In The Face](#)

[Fear And Failure: A Guide To Giving No Fucks](#)

[How To Silence Your Inner Critic](#)


## Prioritise Your Writing

### Writing Exercise: Increments Of A Story.

 Worksheet: Goal Setting

 Roadmap: Get Going, Keep Going

 Course: 14 Days To A Solid Writing Habit

 Course: 7 Ideas In 7 Days

 Course: Writing Without Fear

 Private Forum: Buddy Groups And Feedback

*HOLY WOW! You've finished the first stage.  
Congratulations. Gold star for you*



# PLOTTING YOUR NOVEL



The aim of this stage is to have a clear idea of what you're writing - from characters to plot - so you can jump in with confidence.

## 4. OUTLINE YOUR STORY

- Write down everything you know about your story so far
- Workshop and develop your ideas (in your head or with writing buddies)
- Write a Four Point Plan for your story
- Expand into a Seven Point Plan

## 5. GET DEEPER

- Get to know your characters
- Develop a comprehensive Sixteen Point Plan
- Break down your outline into a scene-by-scene list
- Make a list of topics and details to research
- Stop freaking out. You don't need to know EVERYTHING yet!

## 6. REVIEW

- Get feedback on your outline
- Troubleshoot any sticking points
- Take a lil' break to let your ideas percolate
- Compile all these notes and update your Sixteen Point Plan
- Give yourself a gold star!

## RELATED THINGS AND STUFFS

[Planning vs Pantsing](#)

[What's The Plot? \(Intro To The Four Point Plan\)](#)

[The Three Act Structure](#)

[5 Plotting Techniques To Help You Outline A Novel](#)








[Storycraft #1: Telling A Story](#)

[So You Wanna Write A Novel? This Is Why You Need A Plan](#)

[So You Wanna Write A Novel? What's The Big Idea?](#)

## So You Wanna Write A Novel? The Casting Call

### Storycraft #3: The Magic of Scene Summaries

-  [Roadmap: Write A Novel](#)
-  [Worksheet: Story and Scene Checklist](#)
-  [Course: Characterisation Masterclass](#)
-  [Course Unit: The Four Point Plan, Plotstormers](#)
-  [Course Unit: The Seven Point Plan, Plotstormers](#)
-  [Course Unit: The 16 Point Plan, Plotstormers](#)
-  [Private Forum: Buddy Groups and Feedback](#)

*Finished round two? Yes mate! Keep on keeping on...*



# WRITING YOUR NOVEL

The aim of this stage is to get your words on the page, from the beginning to the end of your story. A complete first draft.



## 7. DRAFTING

- Pick a starting point and dive in - don't fear the blank page!
- Give yourself the freedom to explore beyond your outline and work towards an imperfect 'zero' draft
- Tweak your writing timetable to suit your routine
- Cultivate a solid, dedicated writing habit and keep going!
- Regularly revisit your plan and compare to your growing draft
- Identify your sticking points and unstick 'em
- Develop and deepen your story with subplots, characterisation, and a strong narrative voice
- Finish your first draft!
- Share with writing buddies and beta readers for feedback



# RELATED THINGS AND STUFFS

[Beginning A Story: What Stops Us Starting?](#)

[Get in the Writing Zone](#)

[Don't Fear The Blank Page!](#)

[Troubleshoot Your Writing: Why Are You Stuck?](#)

[Storycraft #2: Narrative Voice](#)


[Storycraft #4: Subplots Ahoy](#)

[Storycraft #5: Sowing Story Seeds](#)

[Writing Is A Team Sport](#)

 [Roadmap: Write A Novel](#)

 [Roadmap: Smash Through Writer's Block](#)

 [Worksheet: Get The Fuck On With It Flashcards](#)

 [Course: Couch to 5K Words](#)

 [Course: The First Draft](#)

 [Course: Troubleshoot Your Novel](#)

 [Private Forum: Buddy Groups and Feedback](#)



*OH MY GAWDDD You are a magestic writing beast!  
You have written a first draft!*



**Want access to the full four, seven and sixteen point plans, all related resources, and the most word-slinging, biscuit-eating, story-writing, procrastination-busting, unfeasibly supportive writing community around?**

[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE](#)

