



Novel

Worksheets

Plan Now, Play Later

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Embrace the Plan

A good plan won't restrict you; it will set you free.

I used to fight planning. I mean, planning kills creativity, right?

That was the old me. The new me realizes that what *really* killed my creativity was camping out in front of an empty screen, cursor blinking with condemnation, eyes roving around the corners of the ceiling and noticing all the cobwebs, thus initiating a death spiral of bad feelings. And I'd find anything to trigger my procrastination, just to escape from the bad feels and doubts.

Doubts like, "Am I even a writer if I can't write?"

Talk about feeling defeated before I even gave myself a fair chance...

Now I love planning. It helps me spot my weaknesses and fix problems before I encounter them. No more back-tracking, cutting entire chapters, rewriting from the middle, or worse -- ditching the whole project in despair.

Use these planning sheets to find your weak spots, too. You can print them out and put them in a binder, or record your responses in your writer's journal, a separate document file, or (if you have good eyesight and want constant access to your ideas) on your phone.

Make multiple copies for each character and setting.

Brainstorm your novel from start to finish, patch up any plot holes, and strengthen the weak areas. But most of all, have fun.

It will be hard work but if it's not fun, why bother? Happy noveling!

Why do you want to write this story? What question/conviction drives you?

:::Setting:::

**Take some time to create a vivid setting for your novel.
Include sensory details and descriptions here.**

Location:

Is it a real place, inspired by somewhere you know, or a fantasy world?

In which season does the story take place? What's the weather like?

Local attractions or wonders:

Does the setting provide protection and comfort or does it work against the protagonist? How?

:::Character:::

Take some time to create imperfect, relatable characters
that readers will find fascinating.

Name:

Appearance (hair/eye color, height/weight, unusual features, etc.):

Greatest Desire:

Greatest Fear:

Bad Habits and Secrets:

Obstacle Standing in the Way of Attaining the Greatest Desire:

:::PlotPoints:::

Take some time to map out the major plot points.

First Plot Point -- Light the Fuse. What causes the Protagonist to leave a comfortable life and make a choice? He or she is now on a course that leads to the big disaster.

Second Plot Point -- the Middle. What smaller problem (resulting in defeat or victory) propels the Protagonist to the big disaster?

Third Plot Point -- the Explosion! What crisis confronts the Protagonist, requiring a permanent transformation or Phoenix-like rebirth that costs everything?

Notes:

:::Chapter Outline:::

Act I

Act II

Act III

::: Chapter Outline :::

::: Draw a Mind Map of any other ideas you have :::