

7 tips for writing a novel

Have you always wanted to write a novel? Do you see the story in your head but find yourself incapable of getting it all out on paper? Do you begin excitedly writing and then get burnout almost before you've even begun?

If it all seems overwhelming maybe the following suggestions will help you become more organized and form those budding ideas! 1. You Need An Outline

Some people say they can just start writing and it all flows smoothly and evenly to become the perfect piece. If you can write your novel this way, I envy you. (And you probably don't need to read this article) But most people need to form their ideas in some kind of outline. It doesn't have to include every detail of your novel, just the framework. And you can always add and modify as you go along.

2. Point-of-View

Decide what point of view you are going to use in a particular scene and stick with it. Don't jump back and forth, it's confusing. Use the "omniscient" viewpoint sparingly and have a limited number of POV characters. Never tell the POV of an insignificant character.

3. Dialogue

Read the conversations aloud. Do people you know really talk that way?

4. Dramatic Concept

Imagine you are writing the blurb for your novel. Can you sum it all up in just a few sentences? If not, you need a stronger dramatic concept.

5. Tension & Escalation

A good story needs conflict but it is equally as important that your conflict escalate. You should gradually build up to that critical level.

6. Show- Don't Tell

It's an old saying- but it's true. If a character is angry, don't just SAY she is mad. Put her in a situation that will make her mad and SHOW how she reacts.

7. Obvious Mistakes

This is actually one of the most important. No matter how great your word processing program or how many times you proofread yourself, you can always overlook misspellings, grammatical errors and incorrect punctuation. You should have someone very qualified in English or a professional editor proofread your work. If you do not know someone personally, you can hire someone. It is well worth the price.

I hope these guidelines will help you a little on your journey to writing that perfect novel!