

Creative Writing Now

Novel Outline Summary

For a complete novel outline, use this worksheet in combination with the CWN Character Profile Worksheets and Scene Outline Worksheets.

Who will be your main character? *(Write some basic information about this character. A novel may have more than one main character, but this will make the novel more challenging to write. If there will be several main characters in your novel, write some information about each of them. You may wish to use the CWN Character Profile Worksheet to develop your character/s.)*

What is the main problem your character has to solve, or an important goal your character has to achieve? Why is it deeply important to your character? *(If it isn't that important to your character, look for another problem or goal to be the focus of your story. If your character doesn't care a lot that he or she resolves the problem, your readers won't either.)*

What terrible difficulties are there between your character and his/her goal or the solution to his/her problem? *(Make a list. If it's too easy for your character to get out of trouble or get what he/she wants, then there will be less of a story.)*

Where and when (in general) will your story take place? *(For example: in Miami in 1987, on the planet Fiz in the year 2004, etc.)*

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In general, what type of novel are you writing? *(For example, is it mainly comedy? Drama? A thriller? Science fiction? Etc.)*

What are the main events that will move your character toward (or away from) solving the novel's central problem or achieving its central goal? *(Make a list.)*

Write a 1-2 sentence summary of your novel's main idea: *(You can imagine that you're writing the blurb for the book jacket. This summary should include a character or characters and an important problem or goal. If you find that you can't pin your novel down to just 1-2 sentences, then your idea probably isn't focused enough yet, and you should keep working on it.)*