

“NOVELING” PREP

Extreme Brainstorming Day

NANOWRIMO INFO

- November is National Novel Writing Month.
- Goal: Write a novel in a month.
- Set a word count goal. Try to meet it by the end of the month.
- Takes willingness and commitment.
 - Not about writing a perfect novel in a month.



- “Amateurs sit and wait for inspiration, the rest of us just get up and go to work.”
— Stephen King



BRAINSTORMING IDEAS:

- First, write down any ideas for stories that you think would be fun. Be as specific as you like here. Full paragraphs or a list. Whatever. Even fragments of stories count.
 - Plots/Events
 - Characters
 - Situations
 - Dialogue
 - Subjects
 - Worlds/Settings/Mythology/History
 - Conflicts/Problems
 - Anything in your Writing Territories?



ADD TO THIS LIST

- Continue to brainstorm different elements that could be worked into a novel. Consider the following:
 - Conversations you've overheard or situations you've witnessed.
 - Events in history that you find interesting.
 - Events from your life or from others' lives.
 - Lines from songs that stand out to you.
 - Hobbies/Passions/Interests that you know lots about.



FIND “TIPS FOR WRITING A NOVEL: SO YOU’VE GOT AN IDEA—WHAT NOW?”

- Put stars next to your favorite ideas on your brainstorm sheet.
- Using your brainstorm as inspiration, try out some of the tips the article lists.
 - Start with a character
 - Start with a problem
 - Start with a setting
 - Start with a concept
- It would be best, even if you already are sure of what you’ll write about, if you try a TWO of these different strategies. You never know if it will help you out in the story you end up writing... 

- Create “what if” statements for anything you’ve documented so far.



AT THIS POINT, YOU SHOULD HAVE SEVERAL DIFFERENT CONCEPTS FOR STORIES. PICK YOUR TOP TWO.

- Do a quickwrite. Write down everything that you can about both these stories.
 - Characters (main, antagonists, power players)?
 - **How will it begin/end? (these ones are important)**
 - Setting (time and place)?
 - Conflict/Problem?
 - Genre?
 - Point-of-View?
 - Scenes/Moments from the story?
 - Is there a message you want readers to get out of the book? What is it?



WELCOME BACK, CREATIVE WRITERS.

- Grab a chair and log on to a computer. Then open a blank word document.
- We're going to do a timed writing activity (10 minutes). Will help w/ nanowrimo goal.
 - The key is to keep writing for the entire time. Don't worry about writing a perfect story.
 - Prompt Option 1: A musician practices. When she finishes a piece, she hears someone clapping for her, although she lives alone.
 - Prompt Option 2: Weekend adventurers explore a cave and can't find their way out again. Then they encounter something terrible...
 - Prompt Option 3: It's bad luck in the theatre to call the Shakespeare play *Macbeth* by name, but someone in the company keeps doing it anyway... and the superstition proves true.
 - Or any other Halloween-themed story of your choosing.

NOW FOR SOME MATH...

- What is the number of words you wrote in your story for these 10 minutes?
 - Write down this number.
 - Multiply that number by six.
 - Multiply that number by nine.
 - So, if you write 300 words in the ten minutes, the math would be $300 \times 6 \times 9 = 16200$.
- Nanowrimo is set up around word count goals.
- Your word count goal should be **AT LEAST** the number of words you calculated here...though you can go higher if you want.



SET UP NANOWRIMO ACCOUNTS

○ Type in the following address:

- ywp.nanowrimo.org
 - Click “Sign up” and go through the process. You’ll need to verify an email.
 - You’ll need to join our classroom. Log into your account and join the AMES Creative Writng 2017 group. When asked for a code, it’s **PBFGCVBA**
 - Note that all chats are monitored by me. They are meant to ask questions regarding noveling, not for any other kinds of conversations.
 - Once you’re in, feel free to browse through the features.

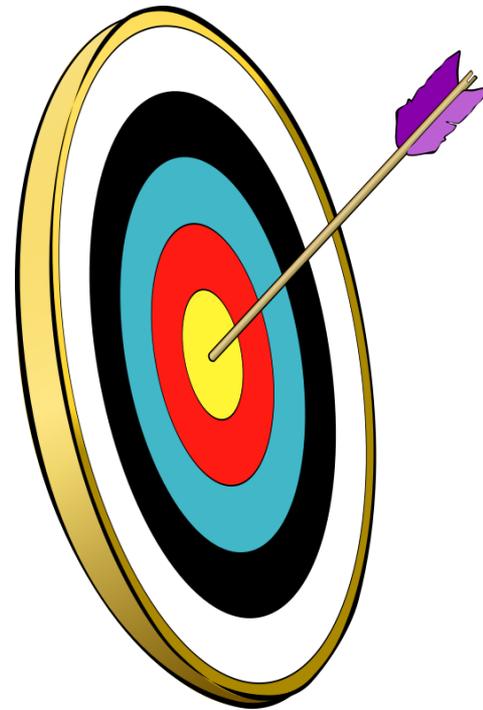


- Return to the center tables...bring your chair with you.



MOMENT OF TRUTH:

- Pick which of the final two story options you want to shoot for in November.



HOW CLASSES WILL “LOOK” IN NOVEMBER:

- 10 minute warm-up activity.
- Go to computers and write novels (it's about writing a rough novel in a month, not a perfect one. The key is to keep writing. Hard core editing comes later,).
- When there's 5 minutes left in class, you'll update your word count and complete some other reflection elements on a check-in sheet I will provide.



CREATE A “ROUGH” TIMELINE FOR YOUR STORY

- You need an ending.
- You need a beginning.
- You need at least three big events in between
 - Something that might be helpful is to create plot pitch following the same basic steps you did for the children’s book.



FINAL BRAINSTORM: WAYS TO START THE STORY

- Character: description of your main character(s) and his or her normal life
- Motivation: setting up what your character wants and the conflict of the story
- Change: clear of what character is like at the beginning so that the character has clearly changed by the end
- World: describe the setting
- Inciting Incident: start at the moment that sets the journey on motion.
- In medias res: start in the middle of the action (background is filled in throughout the rest)
- Flashback or flashforward: Then you can start with a key scene rather than “ordinary stuff” This helps with foreshadowing
- Start at the end: Reveal the ending and then either work backward or jump back to the beginning and build up to it.



- Noyce's examples
- Now your turn.
 - Divide the rest of class in half. Spend half of that time trying one way to write your story. Spend the other half of that time trying out a different way.
 - You'll pick one next time to start your



YOUR INNER EDITOR

- What does your inner editor do? Look like?
- When you come in to write your novel, you need to turn your inner editor off so that you can focus on getting your novel done.
- Draw a button on your writer's notebook so that you can smack it before you start writing.

