

NOVEMBER 2020, ISSUE 14

PROVISIONAL PEN MONTHLY

The official e-newsletter of Provisional Pen Writing Services



WRITE A NOVEL!

We know this sounds like a huge undertaking, and in many ways it is. But, if this year has taught us anything, it's to take action while there's still time. So, let's get going on our writing journey! In this newsletter, you'll find out how Provisional Pen can help you achieve your writing goals, how to use freely available materials from NaNoWriMo to get started, and why you should keep trying when that's the last thing you feel like doing. We're here for you, and we can't wait to see what you come up with.

Happy Writing!

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News @ *Provisional Pen* WRITING SERVICES

WRITING A NOVEL? WE CAN HELP

Whether this is your first novel or your fifteenth, Provisional Pen is here to help improve the experience for you. Check out how you can benefit from our services from start to finish:

- Supportive Community - [Provisional Pen Writers Group](#) and Provisional Pen Members Only
- Brainstorming Discussion - [Writing Consultation](#)
- Resources and Group Coaching - [Membership](#)
- Finishing Up - [Editing & Proofreading Services](#)
- Publication Options Discussion - [Writing Consultation](#)
- Writing for Author Website - [Web Content Writing Services](#)

All our services promote encouragement and accountability throughout the whole process. After all, even the most ambitious goals feel more achievable with people cheering you on and helping you stick with the journey, step by step.

Contact us today
to discuss
a personalized
approach
to your novel!



WRITING TIP OF THE MONTH

TRY OUT *NANO PREP 101*

If you've ever thought about taking on a complex writing project, you should check out NaNoWriMo, both the annual challenge "to write 50,000 words of a novel" in November and the organization that helps writers reach this goal ("What is NaNoWriMo?"). Where should you begin? With *NaNoPrep 101*, their extensive collection of information and activities for brainstorming, prewriting, and planning. If you don't want to wait until next year, here are some ways to use NaNo Prep 101 outside of the official challenge:

Write a novel on your own.

NaNoWriMo has you covered when it comes to novel writing. They do a great job of clarifying what can feel like an overwhelming process. Their *NaNo Prep 101 Handbook* covers everything from brainstorming and "develop[ing] a story idea" to "plotting" out your novel (The NaNoWriMo Staff).

Write a short story on your own.

Not planning to write a full-length novel? No problem. You could still use *NaNo Prep 101* to write a short story or collection of short stories. Their "character development" and setting creation (The NaNoWriMo Staff) sections would be helpful. You could even use their plot development activities; just remember you're working with a compressed timeline.

Prioritize your creative goals.

This is where the final two sections of the handbook come in. The organization section features checklists, "Do Not Disturb" signs, and other materials to help you focus on your project (The NaNoWriMo Staff). And, the time management section starts with a quiz to help you "structure your writing time" (The NaNoWriMo Staff). Both sections would be useful for any major writing project.



Works Cited

- The NaNoWriMo Staff. *NaNo Prep 101: A Six-Week Workshop and Resource Guide for Writers*. National Novel Writing Month, s3.amazonaws.com/files.wordpress.nanowrimo.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/10140914/NaNo-Prep-101-Course-Editable-2020.pdf.
 "What Is NaNoWriMo?" *NaNoWriMo*. National Novel Writing Month, nanowrimo.org/about-nano. Accessed 15 Nov. 2020.

Work Consulted

- "NaNo Prep." *NaNoWriMo*. National Novel Writing Month, 2020, nanowrimo.org/nano-prep-101. Accessed 15 Nov. 2020.

MONTHLY WRITING INSPIRATION

KEEP ON WRITING

Writing a novel is no easy task; if it were, more people would be doing it. When you feel like giving up, remember these reasons to continue working on long-term projects:

Struggling is a normal part of the process.

Many writers have survived the uncertainty, the doubt, the long hours of the process. We here at Provisional Pen can honestly tell you that writing is not effortless for us, either. There's no way around it: writing is as frustrating as it is enjoyable. To succeed, you have to embrace all that comes with it.

Scrapping an idea or project doesn't mean you'll never finish anything.

How many authors have said they've abandoned a novel for one reason or another? Elizabeth Gilbert describes one such situation of her own and goes on to offer readers solid advice on how to handle it in *Big Magic* (42-9). Plenty of writers go on to complete other projects; so can you.

Writing a novel is a huge accomplishment.

Even if you never publish it. Even if you never show it to anyone. You still know what you achieved. Maybe you didn't love the process, but you made a huge commitment and followed through. No matter how long it took. That's something to take pride in.

Editing can work wonders.

Okay, so you can't seem to get a character or plot point just right while you're writing. What you need to do to fix the issue could become much clearer once you've completed a draft and had the chance to read it over in its entirety. Seriously, you can make a significant difference in the editing phase. In fact, this article was initially about ways to keep going rather than reasons to do so. Where we start and where we end up may be two entirely different places. It's all part of the process, and you've got this.



Work Cited

Gilbert, Elizabeth. *Big Magic: Creative Living Beyond Fear*. Riverhead Books, 2015.



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