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PROVISIONAL PEN MONTHLY

The official e-newsletter of Provisional Pen Writing Services



WRITE A NOVEL!

November is such an exciting time of the year, with the holidays fast approaching. So, why not start working on a long-term writing project? It's an extra busy time, but the break from your normal routine may be just what you need to step out of your creative comfort zone.

In this issue, you'll find out how we can help with the novel writing process, where to find resources to help you navigate the planning stage, and how writing a short story could inspire a novel.

Write on!

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News @ *Provisional Pen* WRITING SERVICES

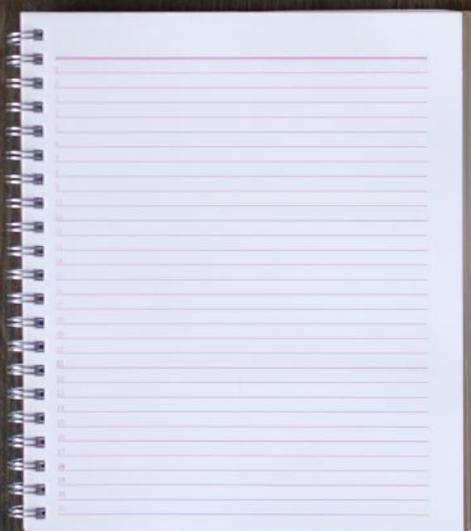
LET'S WRITE A NOVEL!

A long-term project can feel like a huge undertaking, but Provisional Pen is here to help right from the start. We offer the following options for mentoring and resources:

Individual Help ~ If you'd like to work one-on-one via phone and email, our [Writing Consultation](#) services are the way to go. From planning to drafting, we are here to focus on your unique writing needs. Writing Consultation also includes access to the Provisional Pen paid membership.

Working in a Group ~ Want to work with a supportive community of writers without leaving home? Check out our paid [online membership](#).

Flying Solo ~ We've got you covered when it comes to working on your own, too. Check out our [blog](#) for everything from reading recommendations to writing tips. And, with our paid membership, you can enjoy exclusive materials such as infographics and in-depth articles.



WRITING TIP OF THE MONTH

GET PLANNING

You already know that lots of forethought goes into writing a novel, but if you're not quite sure where to start, you're certainly not alone. Thankfully, there are resources designed to help you get started:

NaNoWriMo

Well-known books like *The Wedding Date* and *Water for Elephants* have been written during NaNoWriMo (Toledo Lucas County Public Library). Even if you're not participating in the month-long writing challenge, you should still check out the [NaNo Prep](#) webpage for a fillable PDF guide to generating ideas and doing some prewriting, among other helpful tips.

Writing Apps

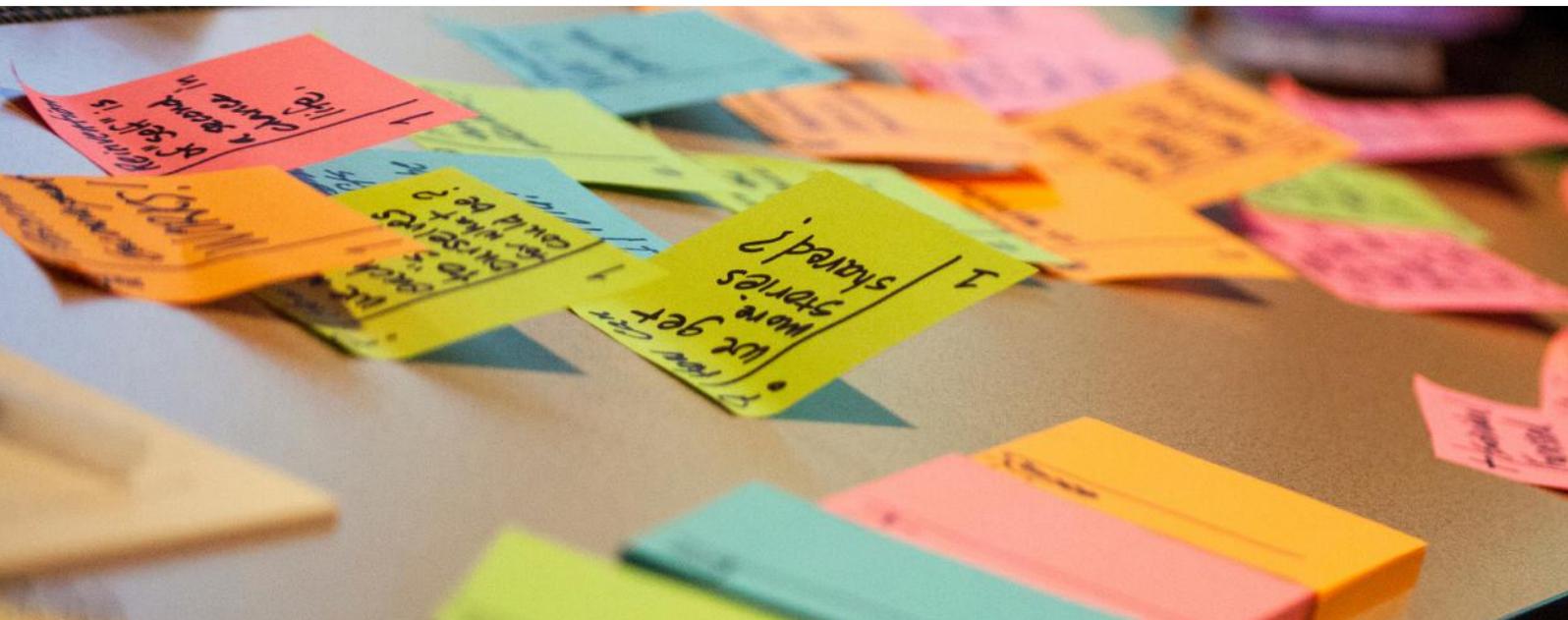
It's amazing what we can do with tablets and smartphones these days, isn't it? For starters,

Google Docs can help you take your writing on the go for free. As far as paid apps go, here are a few we recommend: *Goodreader* (for those using Apple devices), *Brainstormer*, and *Lists for Writers*. For our reviews of these apps, check out ["Three Apps for Budding Authors That Are 100% Worth the Price."](#)

Podcasts

Sure, they're a great source of entertainment, but they can be very informative, too. We recommend listening to a few episodes of the [Kobo Writing Life Podcast](#) to learn how published authors work with their ideas to create novels.

With more help available to writers than ever before, you don't have to plan out your novel entirely on your own. Such a relief, isn't it?



Work Cited

Toledo Lucas County Public Library. "Books Written During NaNoWriMo." *Libby* app, OverDrive, 2021.

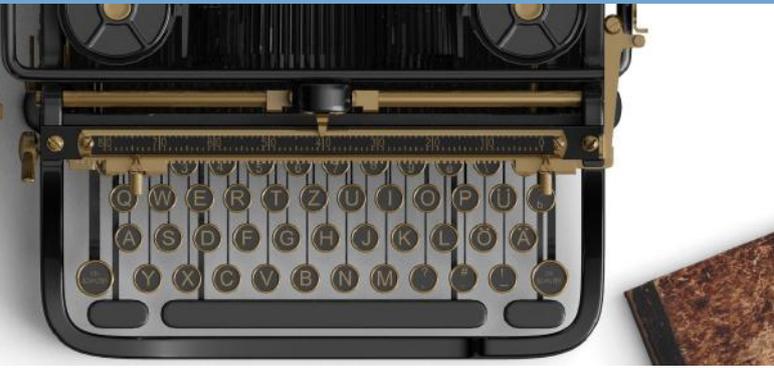
MONTHLY WRITING INSPIRATION

START WITH A SHORT STORY

If planning an entire novel feels overwhelming to you, that's understandable. And, it's okay. You don't have to go big or go home when it comes to your writing.

So, why not start on a smaller scale? A short story could be more manageable. It still involves a certain amount of character development, plotting, and scene setting, but the brevity could help you avoid becoming overloaded with detail, at least on your initial approach to the story you want to write.

For more on writing short stories, read "[Don't Discount the Short Story.](#)"



From there, once you get a good feel for how the story flows, you might work up to a novel. Or, you might decide this particular story works best in a shorter format. No worries. Now that you know what it takes to complete a short story, you'll have a better idea of the kind of plot you would need to carry a novel.

Remember, you can still make good use of the resources we've mentioned in this issue of *Provisional Pen Monthly* even if you're working on a short story. And, if you'd like to develop a personalized approach to writing, Provisional Pen is here to help.



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