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PROVISIONAL PEN MONTHLY

The official e-newsletter of Provisional Pen Writing Services



START ANEW!

A new year brings with it new opportunities for creativity, so let's take advantage of the calendar reset. Now is the time to get excited about new ideas, projects, and strategies.

In this issue, you will find out how Provisional Pen can help you from the start, how to plan out a writing collection, and how to enjoy the creative process. We can't wait to see what you come up with this year.

Happy Writing!

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News @ *Provisional Pen* WRITING SERVICES

LET'S GET IT STARTED!

What do you want to write this year? A poetry collection or a novel, perhaps? If you're not quite sure, that's okay.

Check out the [Provisional Pen Blog](#) for inspiration, from reading recommendations to writing prompts.

Already have a great idea? We are here to help you break through writer's block and boost your confidence in your writing skills.

Learn how our [Consultation Services](#) can help you on the journey from creative dream to creative writing.

Ready, set, write!



START



WRITING TIP OF THE MONTH

THINK AHEAD

It's no surprise that writing, like most creative pursuits, requires a certain amount of planning. This is especially true when your project involves a series or collection of written pieces. What you're dealing with in that case is both a work that is complete within itself and part of something bigger. So, the relationship between each part of the whole series or collection definitely matters. How do you plan for this when you're starting out? Check out these strategies to ensure continuity in your series writing:

Consider the theme(s).

Just as each piece of your collection will have its own theme, your entire work will have an overall theme. For example, you might plan to write a short story collection in which the stories are related by a major theme like family; you could write stories about different kinds of families encountering similar challenges. Which brings us to the next strategy.

Connect the dots.

How do you want the pieces of writing to connect? There's more than one way to do it. Connecting themes is a great option. You could also use recurring characters or places. And, the next tip is especially useful for aspiring series writers.

Extend your outline.

We understand that plotting out just one book is a lot of work, but if you want to write a series, thinking ahead will help you create something cohesive. Even if you're not a big soap opera fan, you're probably aware of the ridiculous plot inconsistencies, sometimes from one day to the next. A child, for instance, becomes a teenager overnight while none of the other characters have aged; it just doesn't make sense. So, unless this is the effect you're going for (if, say, you're writing a humorous series), planning ahead can help you keep all the details together. Readers notice and appreciate that.



MONTHLY WRITING INSPIRATION



RESET YOUR GOALS

Starting something new, whatever it is, usually isn't easy. And keeping at it? Talk about a challenge. So, it's okay if you've already stopped that daily journaling goal you were definitely going to accomplish in 2022. Really. You're not a hopeless failure; you just need a new goal.

Now that we've established that important fact, let's talk about how we approach goals. Setting them is a wonderful way to motivate ourselves, but they can become overwhelming. So, we need to figure out how to make them work for us, to fit our lives and ourselves.

Let's return to the example of the journaling goal, which definitely did not happen to one of our staffers this month. Yep, totally a hypothetical situation. Anyway, writing in a journal every day might not work for you. So, why not? Maybe your



schedule is super busy and that's just not how you prefer to spend the little free time you have. That breaks down to a couple issues: lack of time and lack of interest. To address the time situation, you could decide to write once a week or even once a month or just once in a while. As far as the lack of interest, maybe you're just not trying the right kind of journal. Maybe a bullet journal or a list journal or an illustrated journal would work better for you. Or, maybe the whole journaling idea just isn't for you. In that case, let yourself off the hook and just switch to a whole new goal, like writing poems, for example.

Keep an open mind when it comes to setting your writing goals. You don't have to conquer every single creative idea you'll ever have, and that's more than okay. You can choose what truly interests you and celebrate every small step of the journey towards the end goal.



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