

PREPTOBER & NANOWRIMO *checklist*



Preptober

TIMELINE

DEVELOP YOUR STORY IDEA

It all starts with an idea! What story idea are you passionate about enough to write 50,000 words for? If you don't already have an idea, this is the time to brainstorm!

CREATE YOUR CHARACTERS

Your story will be filled with characters unique to your idea, so you'll want to flesh them out so readers can get to know and connect with them.

PRELIMINARY RESEARCH

You've got a general idea about your story, so now is the time to do some general research to make sure all of your ducks are in a row.

OUTLINE YOUR PLOT

What is the main conflict your characters go through? Doesn't have to be fully fleshed out at this point, but a general idea of your plot is a great start.

FIND YOUR PEOPLE

Start growing your writing community to help support your goals. There are a plethora of groups and chats available for you to explore!

INSPIRATION

If you struggle finding inspiration as you write, a great way to combat this is by creating an "inspiration board" to help you stay on track.

STORY BIBLE

Having an all-in-one location where your story notes are kept, from your outline to your preliminary research and character profiles, can be helpful in the moment!

MAKE YOUR NANOWRIMO SCHEDULE

Now that you've gotten all the details of your book sorted, it's time to get down to the nitty gritty of actually writing it and when you can schedule time to write.

Preptober

TIPS



When brainstorming your story idea, start also making decisions on the other aspects of your book such as the genre, point of view, age range, tropes you want to use, if you want to self-publish or traditionally publish, etc.



An easy way of writing down your plot (if you're not sure if you want to do an outline) is to write the book blurb for your story. Write down the basic plot from start to finish so you can decide whether you want to plot it out or be a panster and see where the story takes you.



If your story has a lot of different characters and you've decided to create a lot of character profiles, make sure you have a document that has the general overview of all of your characters that you can reference quickly.



During your preliminary research, create a folder for any websites you want to bookmark for you to reference during the writing process. It'll be an easy way to quickly pull up important information you need to further elaborate on.



If you have Pinterest, a great way to help you create inspiration for your story is by creating a new Pinterest board unique for your story. You can even reference it after you've written the book and want to create marketing for your book.



There are a number of NaNoWriMo specific discords out there that are unique for your area. Find the one in your area so you can connect with people near you and can chat with them even if you can't leave your home.



Setting up a reward system during the month of NaNoWriMo can be a helpful way of keeping you on track. It doesn't have to be anything big, just as long as it's something that can help keep you motivated to reach your milestones.

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WRITING PROGRAM THAT WORKS

There are so many different kinds of writing programs out there that it can be a little overwhelming. But a good rule of thumb is that if you're brand new, just starting out with this, start with something simple. Start with something you're familiar with such as Word or Google Docs. If you're looking for something a little more advanced, you can start working towards programs such as Scrivener. But the bottom line is to find something that works for your needs.



BE KIND TO YOURSELF

There are going to be days where reaching the 1,667 recommended word count for the day is just not going to happen. And that's okay. Life is going to continue around you, so as long as you can say that you tried your best to achieve your daily word count, that's all that matters. Yes, the challenge is to reach 50,000 words by the end of the month. But you know what you'll have even if you don't hit exactly 50,000 words at the end of the month? The start of a novel!



TAKE TIME FOR YOURSELF

This sounds intuitive, but you'd be surprised how easily it can be to overwork yourself. Making sure you set aside time (hopefully as part of your scheduling for this month) is crucial. Especially if you feel yourself getting into a rut as you're writing, sometimes just taking a step away to do something else for a while can help you see things more clearly.



HAVE YOUR SUPPLIES AVAILABLE

If you're going to be doing writing sprints or have scheduled long periods of time for you to sit down and work on your daily writing goal, it's essential that you have all of the supplies you need readily available nearby. Some basics to consider having nearby can include: water (or something comforting to drink like tea or coffee), snacks, pen and paper (in case you want to jot down a few notes),

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DESIGNATED WRITING SPACE

If you find the most comfort writing curled up in your reading nook, that's the space you should designate as your writing space for NaNoWriMo. Do you find you're most productive at your office desk? Maybe that would be the most beneficial place for you to write. Or maybe changing locations every few days helps you to declutter your mind. Wherever you feel best writing is where you will want to be for this challenge.



CHECK ON ACCOUNTABILITY PARTNER

If you decided to work with an accountability partner during this challenge, make sure you check in with them periodically so you can check on their progress, and you can tell them about your progress.



DO THE BARE MINIMUM

Yes, this one sounds a little strange, but hear us out on this one. There may be a day (or more) during this challenge where you really and truly just don't feel like writing or don't feel the inspiration to. So instead of pushing to meet the daily count, just write what you're able to. If you can only manage 100 words, that's fine. Only 300? Even better. At least by doing the bare minimum, you're still contributing to your word count.



SCHEDULE BREAKS IF NEEDED

If you've scheduled your time to squeeze in writing during your day to day life, schedule breaks during those sprints as well. If you only have a few minutes to spare, that's one thing, but if you've set aside a few hours of your day to write, make sure to include breaks! Set aside 10-15 minutes to step away, stretch, grab a snack, use the bathroom, etc.



TRACK YOUR DAILY COUNT

Take the guess work out of whether you've met your daily count goal by keeping a word count tracker handy throughout the process.

EXAMPLE

NaNoWriMo

TRACKER

EXAMPLE

DAILY GOAL

To meet the 50,000 word goal, you should strive for 1,667 words per day

Date	Written Today	Total Goal for Day	Total Overall	Total Overall Left
November 1	1,000	1,667	1,000	49,000
November 2	4,580	3,333	5,680	48,370
November 3	-	5,000	5,680	48,370
November 4	3,354	6,667	8,984	41,016
November 5	1,766	8,333	10,750	39,250
November 6	2,334	10,000	13,084	36,916
November 7	576	11,667	13,660	46,340
November 8	988	13,333	14,648	35,357
November 9	1,993	15,000	16,636	33,364
November 10	3,226	16,667	19,862	30,188
November 11	645	18,333	20,507	29,493
November 12	4,932	20,000	25,439	24,561
November 13	1,123	21,667	26,562	23,488
November 14	-	23,333	26,562	23,488
November 15	-	25,000	26,562	23,488
November 16	320	26,667	26,882	23,118

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TRACKER

DAILY GOAL

To meet the 50,000 word goal, you should strive for 1,667 words per day

Date	Written Today	Total Goal for Day	Total Overall	Total Overall Left
November 1		1,667		
November 2		3,333		
November 3		5,000		
November 4		6,667		
November 5		8,333		
November 6		10,000		
November 7		11,667		
November 8		13,333		
November 9		15,000		
November 10		16,667		
November 11		18,333		
November 12		20,000		
November 13		21,667		
November 14		23,333		
November 15		25,000		
November 16		26,667		

NaNoWriMo TRACKER

DAILY GOAL

To meet the 50,000 word goal, you should strive for 1,667 words per day

Date	Written Today	Total Goal for Day	Total Overall	Total Overall Left
November 17		28,333		
November 18		30,000		
November 19		31,667		
November 20		33,333		
November 21		35,000		
November 22		36,667		
November 23		38,333		
November 24		40,000		
November 25		41,667		
November 26		43,333		
November 27		45,000		
November 28		46,667		
November 29		48,333		
November 30		50,000		

NaNoWriMo

RESOURCES



NANO RESOURCE HUB

Located on the NaNoWriMo website itself is the NaNo Resource Hub. It contains a vast number of resources such as Pep Talks, Prep 101, Archives, and Additional Helpful Resources that authors and writers can utilize during their writing process.

[link](#)



READING RECOMMENDATIONS

To be a writer is to also be a reader. The Burlington Public Library has a great list of recommended books for NaNoWriMo to help guide and inspire you as you go.

[link](#)



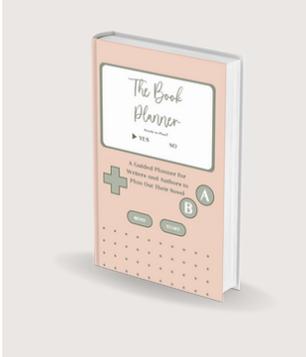
THINK INK EDITORIAL BLOG

The Think Ink Editorial blog has a number of different articles and posts talking about various aspects of the book writing process, including a few posts specific to NaNoWriMo itself that anyone can check out completely for free.

[link](#)

NaNoWriMo

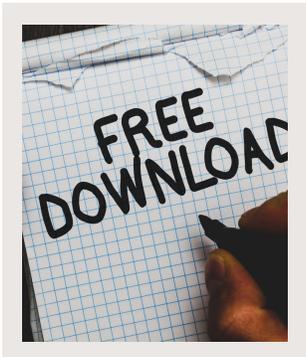
RESOURCES



THE BOOK PLANNER

If you want a comprehensive all-inclusive guided planner to help you step by step through the writing process, check out The Book Planner. From creating and developing your story idea all the way to writing your agent query letters, this planner is there to help!

[link](#)



FREEBIE ITEMS

In addition to this Preptober & NaNoWriMo checklist freebie, there are other freebie items on Think Ink Editorial's website that you can utilize to help aide your writing process. Check out our resource library to view the other items available for you to download, completely for free!

[link](#)



THINK INK EDITORIAL SERVICES

After you've completed the challenge, you're going to start the arduous task of editing your novel, and that's what we're here to help you with! Check out our available services when the time comes for you to edit your story.

[link](#)